

Profile of the
Queen, page 6

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Suicidal Aslef, by Rodgers

The attitude of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen in the dispute causing the rail strike is suicidal, Mr William Rodgers, one of the joint leaders of the Social Democrats, said. "No sane government will invest in electrification and renewal if a handful of men and a bloody-minded union break agreements and exploit their bargaining power." Page 2

**Police hurt in
Bristol clashes**

Two policemen were injured, one seriously, in two nights of clashes in Bristol between groups of white and black youths. Thirteen black and eight white youths were arrested and extra police were in the streets. Page 2

Rape decision not Fairbairn's

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, who resigned as Solicitor General for Scotland over the Glasgow rape case, said yesterday that the decision not to prosecute was not taken by him and he had no knowledge of it at the time. Back page

Owen leadership move attacked

Several SDP MPs voiced fears that the party might get involved in the damaging contest for leadership. They were critical of Dr David Owen, who recently said he wanted a contest, and some spoke of a "stop Roy Jenkins" move. Page 2

Schmidt plays down illness

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, played down reports that he had been taken ill at a local SDP party conference on Saturday. He insisted that formula for financing an unemployment scheme must be found by Wednesday. Back page

Ritchie-Calder dies at 75

Lord Ritchie-Calder, the scientist and journalist, died yesterday in Edinburgh, aged 75. Starting as a junior reporter on a local newspaper, he became an international scientific authority and was made a life peer in 1966. A Times obituary will appear tomorrow. Page 11

Industry call to cut fuel bill

The steel industry is spearheading renewed demands that the Government should act to cut energy-intensive industries' fuel bills. The steel industry last year paid out £520m for gas, electricity and fuel oil. Page 11

CIA tried to hire Bani-Sadr

Agents of the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) tried and failed to recruit Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr as an informant before he became president of Iran, according to an account in *The Washington Post*. Page 4

UK wins record Far East deal

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has announced a credit agreement for the largest package of British goods and services yet exported to Indonesia. The deal, worth £125m, will help in the expansion of an oil refinery. Page 6

Masterful Davis earns revenge

Steve Davis won the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament at Wembley, when he beat Terry Griffiths 9-5. Davis gained revenge for his defeat by Griffiths in the Lada tournament earlier in the month. Sydney Frishkin, page 15.

Sinai force

The Israeli Cabinet has agreed to the participation of Britain, France, Holland and Italy in the international force which is to police Sinai after it is returned to Egypt on April 26. Page 4

Letters: On disconnecting fuel supplies; from Mr Alex Henney; Roosevelt and power, from Mr P. F. Breakell; long-distance plans, from Mr Alan Mattingly.

Leading articles: European air fares; President Reagan's visit to Europe. Features, pages 6 and 8

Thirty years a Queen; a profile by Alan Hamilton; what Suslov's death could mean for Soviet Communism; Obituary, page 10

Mr Stanley Holloway.

**Home News 2, 3 | Property 19
Overseas 4, 6 | Religion 10
Appointments 10 | Sale Room 10
Arts 7 | Science 2
Business 11-14 | Services 22
Court 10 | Sport 15-18
Crossword 22 | TV & Radio 18
Events 8 | Theatres, etc 21
Features 6, 8 | Years Ago 22
Letters 9 | Weather 10
Lancet cartoon 4 | Wills 10**

205 arrested in clashes near Gdansk shipyard

By Our Foreign Staff

Fourteen people were injured and 205 arrested when police clashed with youth who tried to storm public buildings in Gdansk, the Polish news agency PAP reported yesterday.

It was the first report of street disturbances this year in Poland, and the worst in Gdansk since martial law was declared on December 13.

The trouble reportedly started on Saturday evening when a group of youths began shouting and distributing anti-state leaflets near the Baltic port's Lenin shipyard, PAP said. Many people were returning home from work and initially showed little interest in the demonstration.

Police arrived and quickly restored order but the organisers were tried again to stir up trouble in the centre of the city and refused to disperse when ordered by the police, PAP reported. The demonstrators attempted to attack public buildings and behaved aggressively towards the police, finally chasing them from the scene. Eight policemen were among the injured.

By 8 pm the city was calm, the agency said. It described the incidents—which occurred two days before today's introduction of a dramatic price increases for basic foods and for fuel and electricity—as a serious violation of martial law.

Inner-city telephone communication is to be restored within 10 days—though all-communications will be subject to censorship—and domestic television and business telecommunications will also be reactivated.

The Polish Government has had to balance the prospect of the Solidarity underground making use of the new telephone links to reorganise against the tangible damage being done to manufacturing industry.

In the last few months, scarcity of raw materials had become a fixed problem of Polish industry and managers were often forced to telephone or telex commands to the ministry to obtain, for example, scrap iron or chemicals. Since martial law, this has been impossible and many factories have been paralysed as a result.

Other restrictions to be eased include the blanket ban on unregistered meetings of 10 or more people; weddings and large family gatherings are now permitted without prior notification to the police. All conferences and political meetings (except of course party meetings) will remain illegal under martial law.

Foreign correspondents have been told that they will soon be allowed to travel wherever they want in Poland, providing that the Foreign Ministry authorizes their various meetings. It is not clear whether Foreign Ministry officials will have to accompany correspondents on these trips outside the capital.

Anxiety about the effects of food price rises—traditionally a volatile measure in Polish

Continued on back page, col 3

Avalanche kills 12 teenagers

Salzburg, Jan 31.—Twelve young West Germans were killed in an avalanche which buried a party of 18 on a ski slope near here today. One other was still missing.

Police said that six youths were rescued unharmed from the avalanche.

The party had been led by an experienced West German skiing instructor, Hermann Tum, who disregarded an avalanche warning they added.

The group had been following a skiing course on the 1,400 metre (4,500 foot) Elmau mountain, near the village of Werfenweng.

It was made up of students and teachers from a private school in the Bavarian town of Berchtesgaden, near the Austrian border. They came from various parts of West Germany.

The search operation involved more than 140 police, firemen and other rescue workers, equipped with powerful search lights. Police said that dozens of volunteers also joined in, bringing lamps and torches to help light up the scene of the accident.

The rescue was carried out in constant danger of further avalanches, after a day of unusually warm weather throughout eastern Austria.

Police reported that the avalanche broke loose shortly after 3 pm (14.00 GMT). The alarm was raised by a member of the small group who managed to free himself from the snow, and alerted the proprietor of a mountain-top inn. The search carried on long after dark, with searchlights combing the pitch-dark slopes. The operation was finally called off after seven hours, because of the threat of a new avalanche.

Moderates, such as Mr Terence Duffy, leader of the engineering union, and Mr William Sir, of the steelmen's union, joined Mr Michael Heseltine, leader of the more militant Transport and General Workers' Union, and Mr David Bassett, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, in a display of unity against the Bill on the London Weekend Television programme, *Weekend World*.

They all pledged a similar unity in the union movement to challenge the Bill and claimed that they would succeed in defeating it. All unions are to launch a propaganda campaign to alert their members to what they see as the dangers in the proposed legislation.

The TUC is organizing a special conference of union executives in April to mount opposition to the legislative pro-



World champion, 19, skiing in the rain

The new first lady of skiing, 19-year-old Erika Hess of Switzerland, showing extraordinary balance in winning the special slalom on a rain-soaked piste at Schladming, Austria.

Described by her coach as a "nature girl" with strong nerves, Erika Hess, took the gold medal

yesterday in the first combined downhill and slalom event to be staged.

Erika has been described as a living advertisement for her native country—not to speak of her equipment and sponsors. She comes from a farm near Interlaken in the Alps.

The supreme slalom specialist of

the past two seasons, at one point winning 10 out of 11 races, she gave another demonstration of her flawless technique yesterday, clocking the fastest time on the first leg, but taking care on the second, which was run on a chemically-treated course. (Page 16).

National strike threat against labour Bill

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Senior leaders of the trade union movement yesterday warned the country of outright opposition, including the use of political strikes, to the Government's proposed labour Bill.

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Grants veto clause to be dropped

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

The Government has decided to amend the most controversial feature of its second attempt to get new legislation on local government finance through Parliament.

The decision, which will be seen as another defeat for the Treasury, has been taken as a result of opposition from the same alliance of local authority associations and backbench Conservative MPs that ultimately forced Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to drop his plans to force councils wishing to spend over a central limit to hold referendums.

The Government now accepts that the clause in the Bill proposing that compensation of up to £20,000 for workers who refuse to join a union where there is a closed-shop agreement and for finest of shop floor resistance to the Employment Bill.

They expressed anger particularly at clauses in the Bill which allow for compensation of up to £20,000 for workers who refuse to join a union where there is a closed-shop agreement and for finest of shop floor resistance to the Employment Bill.

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NEWS IN
SUMMARYLicensing of
sex shops
attacked

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the campaigner against pornography, has written to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, to protest against local authorities getting powers to license sex shops under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which comes up for its remaining stages in the House of Commons on Wednesday (A Staff Reporter writes).

She said yesterday: "This move is political sharp practice on the part of those permissives in the Home Office who have consistently resisted all attempts to tighten up the obscenity laws.

"The introduction of licensing will inevitably have the opposite effect to what the anxious public expects from it and will make the role of the police quite impossible. I call upon Mr Whitelaw to introduce effective obscenity legislation before this backdoor legalisation of pornography takes hold."

Mrs Whitehouse said she would present a petition containing half a million signatures to the Prime Minister at Downing Street tomorrow.

**£250,000 stolen
from police safe**

More than £250,000 in cheques and cash has been stolen from a safe in the offices of the Transport Police at Victoria Station, London.

No force was used to open the safe. Police believe the door was unlocked and the money removed. The disappearance of the cash and cheques, which was to have been evidence in a court case, occurred more than two weeks ago but was disclosed only yesterday.

**Poll support for
work sharing**

Most people with jobs would agree to cut their hours to create work for the unemployed, according to a Gallup Poll published in *The Sunday Telegraph* yesterday. The poll of 1,752 adults in more than 170 districts, also showed that 70 per cent of the respondents felt the Government should give priority to measures against unemployment rather than inflation.

In the poll, also commissioned for the BBC programme, *Two Nations*, 77 per cent of those in work said people with jobs should be prepared to share work.

**Briton shares
chess title**

John Nunn, the British international grandmaster, has scored a great success in coming equal first with Balashov, the Soviet grandmaster, in the Grandmaster tournament, which ended yesterday at Wijk aan Zee in Harlem (our Chess Correspondent writes).

Nunn started with three wins, in succession, then drawing with Charbonneau and Chamberlain before beating Hort, and then drawing with Karpov, so did not lose another game.

A new president, Mr Derek Fulllick, aged 53, a driver from the militant Waterloo depot, came to office just before the present strikes began, as a result of an unexpected coup that ousted Mr William Ronksley, the veteran Communist.

In a sudden reversal of Aslef's electoral voting pattern, left and right-wingers joined forces to reject Mr Ronksley, who had been reelected president every year since 1974.

Even a fellow Communist, Mr Charles Rodger, from Scotland, who is now vice-president, was forced to leave the party.

A senior British Rail source

last night predicted that relations with the striking footplatemen will worsen in the wake of a power struggle in the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef).

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**BR may suspend
guaranteed pay
in Aslef dispute**

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

British Rail, which yesterday took the first steps to stem the rising losses caused by the train drivers' strike by refusing to pay all but essential maintenance workers, is considering further action to avoid paying wages when no trains are running.

As the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) held its third consecutive Sunday strike, BR told 50,000 workers, who were normally paid £25 at overtime rates for Sunday working, to stay at home. Only 15,000 maintenance men were instructed to report for duty.

The BR board meets tomorrow and may be forced into planning a suspension of the guaranteed weekly wage for its 170,000 workers so that it can avoid paying wages to other staff when Aslef members are holding their two-day mid-week strike.

A final decision on suspension of the guaranteed wage, which could also cause legal difficulties for BR, is said to be some way off. In the meantime, senior railway managers are pinning their hopes for a settlement of the dispute, now in its fourth week, on a successful intervention by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) and

Acas, after failing in other attempts to bring the sides closer together, has proposed a committee of inquiry, which has the backing of BR and the other rail unions but so far has not been approved by Aslef. The dispute is over BR's decision to withhold a 3 per cent pay increase from 20,000 train drivers because Aslef has not agreed to proposals for changes in rostering.

The Aslef executive is due to start meeting this afternoon, but may not get around to discussing the inquiry until tomorrow, probably to avoid the result of the BR board's deliberations. The executive will also have to decide on future strategy but is unlikely to approve extended action or a variation of the tactic of a strike if the strike took place.

How drivers' leader may stiffen union's resolve

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

British Rail management fears that relations with the striking footplatemen will worsen in the wake of a power struggle in the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef).

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Driver on rape charge

A motorist is to appear before magistrates at Mildenhall, Suffolk, today accused of raping the wife of an American serviceman as she walked home from a party eight days ago.

Beating black ice

A device to warn motorists of black ice on roads is being developed at Nottingham University.

Correction

Tracey Stamp received a nine-month suspended sentence at Newport Crown Court, Gwent, on Friday, not a three-month suspended sentence as stated in the Press Association report published on Saturday.

BL Cars cuts cost of energy.

together with extensive use of micro-processors to control key areas such as heating and lighting.

Another sign of the determination of BL Cars to keep production costs under the tightest control.

These savings are due to comprehensive monitoring of energy usage,

Fighting back

BL Fighting back

Labour leaders begin to change tack on EEC

By George Clark, European Political Correspondent

Subtle changes in the Labour Party's presentation of its case for taking Britain out of the European Economic Community are being prepared to avert the looming crisis in relations with other socialist parties in Europe.

Confidential minutes of the last joint meeting of the Labour MEPs and the party's national executive committee in London, which *The Times* has obtained, reveal the dilemma.

The minutes say: "Mr [Wedgwood] Benn suggested that, rather than talk about withdrawal from Europe, an emotive phrase, we should start talking about 'extirating ourselves from the Treaty of Rome' which is far more correct. He thought that MEPs should advise the NEC on relationships and cooperation with fraternal parties after withdrawal, and on the technical problems of extraction."

Mr Alfred Lomas, European MP for London, North-East, said that other members of the socialist group in the European Parliament "had a slightly more exaggerated view of our withdrawal than the rest of their parties".

A big effort will be made to patch up the differences when Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, and Mr Eric Heffer, the frontbench spokesman on Europe, visit Brussels on Wednesday and Thursday next week to meet the 123 member socialist group in the European Parliament and, later, representatives of the party organizations in Europe.

Like it or not, the Labour Party has attracted to itself the isolationist, some saying nationalistic, sounding slogan: "Let's get out of Europe!"

But Mr Foot and Mr Heffer, now strongly supported by Mr Benn, want to convince their European comrades that their object is really to move out of the

anti-socialist restrictions of the EEC into a wider European Community where there would be freedom to protect the interests of workers more effectively than is possible in a grouping dominated by big business.

The slogan, they say, should be: "We want to move into Europe!"

So far, Labour's public relations exercise has been a failure. The 17 Labour MEPs at Strasbourg are virtually excluded from important decisions taken by the socialist group in Europe, and the threat of British withdrawal also brushes off on the Conservatives. Once again Britain is seen as a reluctant and ever-complaining partner.

One Labour MEP said yesterday of the British group's relations with their European socialist colleagues: "On a personal level we are friendly, but they show great hostility to our policy of coming out. We are often treated like misfits."

"British Labour backbenchers hardly ever get selected as socialist spokesmen. Our only chance to speak at the plenary sessions is if we can get called on what is termed 'explanation of a vote', and even then we are limited to 90 seconds."

When the socialist group drafted a statement on Poland the British Labour MEPs were not given a chance to help in its composition. A British group which signed a motion on nuclear disarmament was cold-shouldered.

The minutes say: "Mrs Castle asked that details of why and how we are going to leave the EEC be ready for Mr Foot when he visits Brussels in February. She said that because our strategy had not been planned we were not winning the argument for withdrawal either on the doorsteps or in the socialist group."

Mr Heffer, appointed to his job shortly before the meeting, agreed there was much later this year.

Nurses want strict control of pay beds

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Tighter control over the growth of private health care has been demanded by the Royal College of Nursing and in an editorial in *The Lancet* the number of new private beds planned reaches 2,000.

Thirty-five proposed private hospitals are awaiting planning permission. If built they will bring the total number of private beds in England and Wales to 34,000 compared to 455,000 in the National Health Service.

For private hospitals with fewer than 120 beds development permission does not have to be obtained from the Department of Health and Social Security, but the department has to be notified.

Hospital regions to cost over £30m

More than £30m will have to be spent over the next few years on correcting building defects in 12 hospital developments built since 1971.

Three of the hospitals account for two thirds of the cost: The Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow (£7.25m); the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff (£7.1m); and the Hospital for Sick Children, London (between £5m and £8m).

Details of the defects and of the costly repairs that will be needed are contained in the latest report to Parliament of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Committee of Public Accounts, which investigated the Glasgow case, was told by the Department of Health and Social Security and the Welsh Office that there were no comparable cases in England and Wales. Since then the defects at the hospitals in Cardiff and London have come to light.

The Government considers that most of the faults at the hospitals are not unique to hospital building but reflect the general experience with buildings designed and erected in the 1950s and 1960s.

It requires health authorities to prepare the detailed design briefs for new hospitals, to appoint consultants of good reputation, to select experienced and financially sound contractors, to provide detailed drawings and specifications to the contractors, and to ensure that consultant architects supervise closely the contractors' performance.

"Medical insurance is on the whole available only to those in employment; the

Gas search starts off Blackpool

From John Chartres
Blackpool

British Gas offshore explorers have started to drill the first of a new series of boreholes in the Morecambe Bay area of the Irish sea, only a few miles from their recently proven gasfield which is expected to deliver 1,800 million cubic feet per day by 1986.

Its proposals include the reestablishment of the health service board, the body set up in the mid-1970s to oversee the phasing out of pay beds abolished in 1980 by the present government.

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Three men, a mountain and a mystery

Three famous faces of Everest were in London yesterday. Reinhold Messner (left) from the South Tyrol, who climbed the mountain alone in 1980. Professor Noel Odell (right), aged 91, the last man to see Mallory and Irvine alive in 1924, and Captain John Noel (centre), aged 91, photographer on the 1922 and 1924 expeditions, met to talk about their old adversary (Ronald Faux writes).

Reinhold Messner twice climbed Everest without using artificial oxygen, sustained by the historical fact that Noel Odell had spent many days at high altitudes on the mountain in

his tweeds and clinker-nailed boots supporting the early British attempts.

Messner said: "Quite eminent doctors told me that my brain would be damaged by climbing at these altitudes, but when I see Professor Odell I do not worry any more. He is in splendid health." The professor agreed: "Those expeditions never did me any harm. I seemed to thrive on them. Mind you, I did play a lot of rugby football after them."

The mystery of whether Mallory and Irvine reached the summit came perhaps a small step closer to solution. According to Messner, the

question revolves around whether Odell saw them on the first or second "step" that outcrops from the North Ridge. Professor Odell saw the two climbers through breaks in the cloud on the step and outlined against the sky. Messner argued that could only have been on the first step, since the route up the second was hidden from view in a difficult corner. The sighting was at noon, which left too little time for Mallory and Irvine to climb the second step and reach the summit before dark.

The balance of probability was that they died after abandoning their attempt.

Butter sales fall by fifth in two years

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Average weekly consumption of butter in Britain has fallen by a fifth in the last two years, a survey published today shows.

The figures, for the third quarter of last year, predate the recent controversial newspaper advertising campaign which may have succeeded in halting or reversing the growing preference for margarine. But they are bound to cause further gloom in the dairy industry, which is faced with declining markets for both liquid milk and butter at a time of ever increasing EEC surpluses.

Sales seem certain to fall still further if the latest farm price proposal by the European Commission is implemented. The proposed increases would mean a rise

in butter prices of about 8p a pound, it is estimated.

Moreover, there is growing opposition among EEC governments to the special differential subsidy paid to British butter consumers, at present worth about 15p a pound. Mr Bjorn Westh, the Danish Agriculture Minister, said yesterday in Copenhagen that his government was anxious to see it phased out.

The subsidy was originally imposed to help to dispose of the so-called butter mountain, and reflected Britain's importance as the Community's main import market.

Officially the mountain no longer exists, although there were dark hints from Mr Poul Dalsager, the EEC Agricultural commissioner, in Berlin recently about what

might happen if the United States was forced to dispose of its dairy surpluses on world markets.

Consumption of eggs, sugar, beef, potatoes, white bread, tea and coffee was also lower in the third quarter of 1981 than the average for 1979. But people were eating more cheese, lamb, pork, green vegetables, fresh fruit and brown bread.

A third of those in the survey thought prices for necessities were unreasonable, and one in ten claimed to have been obliged to cut down on spending on food.

Checkout queues upset shoppers

More than one in five customers have serious complaints about the shops they use, according to a survey published today by the National Consumer Council (Robin Young writes).

Though a high proportion of people felt they had bought unsatisfactory goods, only 3 per cent said they felt they needed more information or advice on shopping or their rights. Even of those who did feel they needed advice, only half had obtained it.

The county structure plan favoured as a priority a multi-storey car park in the area but last year the council considered parking should be improved as quickly as possible by a joint venture involving public and private interests.

Secrecy dilemma for authors

Bird books help thieves to rob rare nests

By David Nicholson-Lord

Respected conservationists may be making the task of bird's egg collectors and nest robbers simpler by their readiness to publish information about breeding and nesting grounds.

Despite increasing efforts to enforce secrecy, details given in many newly published wildlife books continue to direct human predators towards the nests of protected birds.

Examples include the golden eagle, peregrine falcon, greenshank, dotterel and chough, all of which have been considered sufficiently threatened to be placed on Schedule 1 of the new Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Under Section 1 of the act penalties are imposed even for disturbing such birds while they are nest-building.

But concern about publication of sensitive sites extends to other forms of animal and plantlife protected by law. The dilemma, successful conservation versus public interest and the right to know, is at its acutest over birds because of the sharp rise in popularity of ornithology as a hobby. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, for instance, has 450,000 members.

Examples cited by critics from cheaper books to works of reference which, the RSPB acknowledges however inadvertently give the information is given, form an important weapon in the egg collector's armoury.

Dr Derek Ratcliffe, chief

scientist at the Nature Conservancy Council, in a work published in 1980 speaks of the popularity of Lake District sites with the peregrine falcon and adds: "One has up to four pairs nesting within its catchment".

He also describes headland as the only coastal nesting station in the Northwest, and in the Southwest, where peregrine populations have recovered considerably in the last decade, they are said to have spread down the Cornish Atlantic coast from the Devon border and to have reoccupied coastal haunts in Somerset, several of which have been named previously.

A book about greenshanks by one of Britain's best known and most respected ornithologists, includes a list of breeding grounds, listing individual lochs, glens,

moors and mountains in Scotland.

Specialist maps point to inland and coastal sites for little and roseate terns, both Schedule 1 species. They were apparently based on data supplied by a senior RSPB official before he joined the society.

A review by the Nature Conservancy Council goes further, listing 735 sites of scientific interest where protected species can be found, and also supplying Ordnance Survey grid references. Although the locations of the very rarest birds and plants are not disclosed, map references are nevertheless given for sites, often a few score acres in size, where Schedule 1 species such as Savi's warbler, choughs, bitterns and marsh and Montagu's harrier can be found.

Collectors are said to have swum naked across lochs clutching eggs in their mouths, scaled precipitous crags with ropes and climbing irons and used fireworks to flush out cliff-nesting species like choughs. One method of locating a nightjar's eggs is for two men to drag a rope across a heath to startle the bird into the air.

The RSPB is also seriously worried by what it describes as a frightening increase in the number of collectors. The society knows that some 500 active collectors but believes there are many more. Last year more than 1,000 incidents were reported to its small investigations unit, but successful prosecutions remain difficult and relatively few.

The potential for disturbance is also being increased by the expanding armies of "tackers" and "twitchers", birdwatchers with checklists and a mania for rarities.

The dilemma of how much information to disclose dates back at least twenty years to the Loch Garten ospreys, robbed despite an RSPB guard after initial publicity, but shows every sign of becoming harder to resolve.

The RSPB has itself been criticized, notably over advertisements from guest houses in its magazine, *Birds*, extolling the delights of red kite or golden eagle country and giving addresses.

The society says it checks them carefully and also tries to screen other forthcoming publications. Recently, it says, it stopped the Scottish Tourist Board bringing out a detailed viewing map for rare birds. Checking for series like the *British Birds* reports is done by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

One persistent critic of the RSPB on this issue is Mr Eric Hardy, the well-known North Country naturalist and writer, who resigned from the society because, he says, it numbered too many collectors among its members.

Mr Hardy, who has received criticism for disclosing sites in newspaper columns, argues that protected members should be asked to state that they are not collectors and believes that double standards operate, for the "privileged" and the general public. Agreements on non-disclosure should apply to books and scientific journals as well as newspapers, he says.

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County may petition against new bridge

From Arthur Osman
Shrewsbury

Proposal in a Bill which Shrewsbury and Atcham District Council is to introduce in the present parliamentary session for a new road bridge over the River Severn at Shrewsbury and a multi-storey car park were described yesterday as "seriously damaging" for the historic town.

Shropshire County Council is expected to oppose the Bill at a special meeting on Friday so that it can lodge a petition against it on Saturday, the last day it can do so.

Both councils agree that a new multi-storey car park is needed but county councillors have been advised in a summary of the issues involved that in building the bridge over the river by the English Bridge, the county was not consulted before the Bill was drafted.

Some years ago the county supported an abortive scheme which included a footbridge over the river.

It said a road bridge would inevitably provide a dangerous conflict with traffic for children using Wakeman comprehensive school, alongside which the new main road would run.

The school would also lose some of its land and its play area was already far below the statutory minimum.

In environmental and tourism terms the Bill could lead to schemes which will have a significant impact on the skyline and river frontage. This is currently being made more intensively residential in character.

The cost of bridging the river will make inevitable the maximum commercial parking use of land on the town centre side of the river, then accessible by way of the bridge.

This will have the effect of making irrevocable changes which are hardly likely to improve the environmental qualities of the area.

One river frontage has been radically altered on the Smithfield side of the town centre, seriously eroding the aesthetic quality of that side of the town. To do the same to this side could be argued to be highly undesirable.

The county structure plan favoured as a priority a multi-storey car park in the area but last year the council considered parking should be improved as quickly as possible by a joint venture involving public and private interests.

Poland: Culture in crisis

Artistic community plans subversion by stealth

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 31

Other people may reach for their guns when the word "culture" is mentioned, but Poland's Military Council is still deliberating on whether a hammer or a feather duster is the more appropriate instrument for dealing with the country's unruly actors, writers and artists.

Should it allow Poland's cultural establishment to retain its traditional independence — even if that means putting up with politically critical work? Or should it crack down now before matters get out of hand?

The results of this vacillation is corresponding uncertainty among the artistic community. The first instinctive response, of course, was to condemn martial law out of hand: the latest critical petition was signed by 120 writers and artists, including Andrzej Wajda, the film director responsible for such films as *Man of Marble* and *Man of Iron*, which describe the roots of popular protest in postwar Poland.

Dozens of actors claim to have handed in their party cards and there is an informal boycott of television appearances.

But as the weeks of martial law become months, so the cultural establishment is realizing that a less forthright approach might be in order: subversion by artful stealth.

If anything, this view was reinforced by the recent speech of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the Military Council, whose brief mention of cultural affairs emphasized the need to bring art closer to the people. That may be disturbing news for abstract painters, but figurative painters, film directors and writers should be able to mould that all-too-malleable socialist phrasing to their own ends.

Nobody seriously believes that the general hopes to usher in a new era of Socialist Realism, the style of art that traditionally portrays

earnest tractor drivers staring myopically at the socialist dawn.

The uncertainty remains, however, and the most vulnerable are the performing arts. Actors and directors in the theatre and the cinema were the most heavily politicized over the past two years, most of them were in Solidarity, the independent union, or at least were sympathizers.

Actors — and Mr Wajda — are the ones who have been attending the summary trials of Solidarity activists. Actors have been ostentatiously helping the church refer operation for those interned.

Cynics say that a certain "internment chic" has sprung up, and at least one film technician of my acquaintance has expressed a sense of regret that he was not arrested with his friends in the movement; it is a regret that reflects the now widely held belief that intellectuals are being held in reasonable conditions. Actors have also been staging an informal boycott of television appearances.

The people who have to carry the bulk of political responsibility are the theatre directors. They have to ensure that the radicalism of the actors and actresses does not spill over into dangerous areas. Under martial law, the censor has to read and approve new plays, and then views the last dress rehearsal before giving the final go-ahead.

Although the censor existed before martial law, he has been treated as something of a joke. It was very lax supervision at best, and a few stylistic tricks suffice to ensure that the last rehearsal was acceptable.

Now the directors can take few risks. One offensive or politically ambiguous remark in a play could spell the end of the production before it even begins. Thus the *Play* of Mrozek's play *Polonia* about political freedom had

to play it as a farce rather than as a satire to get it past the authorities. It is up to the audience to grasp the real unstated message.

Even so, nine plays have been withdrawn (perhaps only temporarily) from the Warsaw repertoire.

Some films have also been put on ice. It is understood for example that a planned film starring Krystyna Janda (the heroine of Wajda's films) tentatively called *The Interrogation* has been suspended.

The key to artistic resistance to martial law restrictions is Wajda, probably the Polish artist with the widest international following and respect. Wajda knows that the community has great expectations of him, and that has made him all the more reluctant to sign petitions or campaign vociferously against internment.

He sees himself first and foremost as a film-maker who has, admittedly, dealt with politically sensitive subjects in the past. If he were to become an active political campaigner, perhaps not much would be gained but his film-making would lose. He wants to carry on living and working in Poland; that at any rate is what one of his friends has to say. Wajda himself has been extremely reluctant to speak to Westerners in Poland.

Without a central figure to rally around, the artistic community will no doubt get on with doing what they can within the limits of the system, and hope for a relaxation. Certainly some musicians and dancers are being allowed to travel to the West. This is greeted with relief, for passport controls are currently extremely strict and defections are a real possibility.

But the most enduring question is how the Military Council and the party will shift the overall policy towards the cultural establishment.

French farmers, always quick to leap to their own defence, are fighting on four fronts to ensure that their earnings in 1982 do not fall victim to the British Government, Italian wine producers, Spanish vegetable growers or the European Commission.

After six months in which cheap Italian wine imports were the most explosive subject on the French agricultural scene, Britain has taken over in the past week as the main bugbear of the country's 700,000 farmers.

The failure of the European Community nations to agree an agricultural budget is blamed squarely on what the French young farmers' organization called "Britain's exorbitant pretensions". The 9-per-cent increase in farm food prices proposed by the EEC Commission last week came in for an equally harsh reception as scandalous and stupefying.

M Francois Guillaume, the president of the main farmers' federation, is due to see President Mitterrand on Tuesday to put his members' case for a 16 per cent increase in revenue this year.

Wine-growers on the Mediterranean coast in the southwest were out in force at the end of last week. Their target was Italian wine imports, which sell at prices that French growers cannot match, and which have been resumed, after a lull in the Autumn.

In Rome, yesterday, the Pope supported the Polish bishops in their recent call for an end to martial law and said that civil rights had to be defended in every walk of life.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St Peter's Square for the Sunday blessing, he thanked everyone who took part on Saturday in demonstrations against the suspension by the Polish martial law authorities of the independent trade union Solidarity.

In Britain, Mr Len Murray, the TUC leader, called for the immediate release of all trade unionists detained in Poland.

Jackson, Joanne Woodward and the Swedish singing group Abba, took part with the political leaders. Abba is popular in the Soviet Union and the trade union newspaper *Truth* said it was "under the orders of Reagan, Thatcher and certain Nato governments".

Britain did not show the programme and only four Western countries, Australia, Norway, Luxembourg and Belgium, contracted to do so live.

Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Charlton Heston, Orson Welles, Kirk Douglas, Glenda

of freedom in Poland would not be extinguished by the imposition of martial law. "In Poland today the flame of freedom may seem to burn less brightly" she said.

"But it has not been extinguished, nor can it be. Sooner or later the oppressors will understand that they cannot impose their will upon men and women who ask only that Poland may truly represent the indomitable spirit of the Polish people."

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News Analysis

Haig under fire from the right

From Nicholson Ashford, Washington, Jan 31

It is a paradox of the political power game in Washington that, just when Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, finally seemed to have consolidated his position as America's foreign policy leader, his standing within the Administration is again beginning to look vulnerable.

Until a week or so ago the conventional wisdom in Washington was that Mr Haig, after months of skirmishing with his rivals in the White House and elsewhere in the Administration, was at last secure. "The Vice-President," Mr Haig is known in the State Department, had finally made it to the altar, one official comment.

His arch-opponent, Mr Richard Allen, had been unceremoniously ousted from his post as National Security Adviser, and replaced by Mr William Clark, who was Mr Haig's former deputy. He was one of the few members of President Reagan's "California Set" to like and respect the volatile Secretary of State, and even dissuaded Mr Haig from resigning on at least one occasion.

Mr Allen's departure also coincided with the apparent decline in influence of Mr Edwin Meese, the President's Counsellor, who harboured ambitions to have a controlling influence on the conduct of American foreign policy. At the same time Mr Haig had strengthened his position in the State Department by promoting two trusted career diplomats to top positions.

Mr Walter Stoessel, three times an ambassador and a foreign service officer for 40 years, is expected to become Deputy Secretary of State, a

post which has never been held by a career diplomat before. Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, who served in Europe while Mr Haig was Nato Commander, is to take over Mr Stoessel's old job.

Mr Haig also scored a number of foreign policy successes, such as persuading the President to agree to talks on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe, and not allowing Taiwan to jeopardize United States relations with China.

However, there has recently been a deluge of conservative attacks on Mr Haig, and in particular on the Administration's policy towards the Polish crisis. Mr Haig is being accused of being too soft and too pragmatic in his response to the Soviet Union, and of paying too much heed to the concerns of the United States' European allies.

Even liberal newspapers, such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, normally among his most staunch supporters, have carried articles suggesting that he is becoming politically and ideologically isolated from the rest of the Administration.

Mr Haig's growing band of right-wing critics have found an important (if somewhat surprising) ally in Dr Henry Kissinger, Mr Haig's former boss and political mentor. He wrote two articles in *The New York Times* (published also in *The Times*) earlier this month strongly attacking the Administration's handling of the Polish crisis.

The criticisms, being levelled at Mr Haig are personal, political and ideological. His blunt, somewhat abrasive, style often causes

offence, as does his barely disguised ambition to run for President one day, despite his almost total lack of a political base.

Furthermore, Mr Haig's opponents can point to a number of areas where they believe American policy to be wanting. The Soviet Union has effectively intervened in Poland, and has not been deterred by American sanctions. Yet, despite Mr Haig's determination to preserve Western unity over Poland, the Nato alliance is more strained.

In Central America, the critics say, Cuban-backed guerrillas are continuing to make headway because the Administration's bark has not been accompanied by any bite.

Significantly, what was regarded as one of Mr Haig's real sources of strength, influence, and the transfer of power to Mr Clark, was injured, six seriously, in clashes on woodland adjoining the airport, and later in the centre of Frankfurt.

Opponents of the new runway say that it will mean the destruction of up to three million trees, and that extra traffic will make noise from the airport unbearable.

The action group, which had appealed for a peaceful protest, distanced itself from yesterday's violence when petrol bombs, branches and stones were hurled at the police.

Mr Spahn said it was possible that organized groups had come along trying to undermine Mr Haig, will encourage the President to follow his own right-wing instincts in his future dealings with the Soviet Union over Poland.

The decision to reduce to one day Mr Haig's meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, last week, and not to set a date for beginning strategic arms talks, is understood to have been inspired by Mr Clark.

The criticisms, being levelled at Mr Haig are personal, political and ideological. His blunt, somewhat abrasive, style often causes

How CIA wooed Bani-Sadr

Washington, Jan 31. — CIA agents tried and failed to recruit Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr as an informant before he became President of the revolutionary Government of Iran, according to an account published in *Sunday editions* of *The Washington Post*. The account was based on classified documents seized from the American Embassy in Tehran and published there.

Mr Bani-Sadr, now in exile in France, confirmed that an attempt was made to recruit him as a consultant to an American firm, Carver Associates of Philadelphia, but he declined what he recalled being offered an amount of \$5,000 (£2,600) a month, the newspaper said. The documents put the figure at \$1,000 a month.

The disclosure of the discussions with Mr Bani-Sadr was published a day after the *Boston Globe*, citing the same set of documents, said that an American diplomat, only four days before the takeover of the United States Embassy, had relayed pleas from a friendly Iranian official to get the Shah out of the United States.

In *Sunday editions*, the *Boston Globe* quoted a September 1978 warning to Washington from Mr William Sullivan, Ambassador in Iran, that the Shah's crackdown on corruption at that time could

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Prisoners 'volunteer' for Golani

Iran has decided to form a battalion of volunteers from Iraqi prisoners of war to oppose Israel, Tehran radio said.

The broadcast quoted Ayatollah Khomeini's representative on the Supreme Defence Council as saying that the force would be known as the Golani Battalion. The Golani Heights in Syria were annexed by Israel in 1967.

"There have been a lot of requests from Iraqi prisoners of war. They want to be given the chance to make up for their past mistakes and fight blasphemy," the representative said. "We decided tonight to allow the joint staff command to form a battalion of the Iraqi volunteers and have the battalion prepared for dispatch to the border with Israel."

Mafia suspect held in Rome

Rome. — Signor Francis Coppola, who is 83 and alleged to be a Mafia boss, was arrested while undergoing treatment in a private clinic here police said.

They also said that Francis Coppola was likely to face charges of drug and arms trafficking in connexion with a booming trade in heroin between Sicily and the United States. On medical advice, he was not taken to prison but placed under police guard at the clinic.

Film award for Dudley Moore

Los Angeles. — Dudley Moore, who was voted best comedy actor for his role in *Arthur*, at Golden Globe awards here, Sir John Gielgud was the best supporting actor and the film also took the awards for comedy and best song.

Meryl Streep won the best dramatic actress award for her role in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, and Bernadette Peters was chosen best comedy actress for her performance in *Pennies From Heaven*.

Bishop Desmond Tutu, the outspoken black general secretary of the multi-racial South African Council of Churches, and its white president, the Rev Peter Morey, have been expelled from the "Independent" black homeland of Venda after trying to visit churchmen detained there without trial.

Four of the eight pastors of Venda's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is a member of the SAAC, and a number of prominent laymen are being held. A lay preacher died in prison last November, allegedly after torture, and there are rumours of two other deaths.

Meanwhile, the South African Government appears to be obstructing a visit to Venda by a delegation of overseas churchmen led by the Right Rev Uwe Hollm, vice-bishop of the Protestant church of Berlin. Visas for the delegation were rounded up about 500 dissidents and executed 30 to 50 officers after uncovering a military plot to overthrow the Government of President Hafez Assad, Western Intelligence and Arab sources said.

The plan was set down by Mr Ahmed Iskandar Ahmed, the Syrian Minister of Information, in an interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine *Monday Morning*.

Syrian arrests: Syrian authorities have rounded up about 500 dissidents and executed 30 to 50 officers after uncovering a military plot to overthrow the Government of President Hafez Assad, Western Intelligence and Arab sources said.

Bishop Tutu and Mr Storey drove to Venda in the north-east corner of South Africa last Friday. After calling at the home of local clergymen they went to the police station at Thohoyandou, the Venda capital and casino complex, and asked to visit the detainees.

The request was refused and the two men were escorted to the border by police cars.

Venda is the most blatantly corrupt and unpopular of the four black mini-states which have accepted internationally unrecognized independence from Pretoria in line with the apartheid strategy of territorial separation of the races.

The tiny territory is also vulnerable, being bordered to the north by Zimbabwe and to the east only by the Kruger National Park.

Despite heavy defeats in two elections, Mr Patrick Mathephu, Venda's barely literate President, has managed to stay in power, with South African help, by securing the support of the 42 nominated chiefs who fill the half the seats in the local assembly, and when necessary by locking up opposition MPs.

Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the students to keep their documents and commentary secret until last year, when Mr Bani-Sadr's opponents used them in Parliament. After that, they were published and Mr Bani-Sadr was forced to flee the country.

The *Globe* said American officials from 1966 on worried about financial corruption among the Shah's relatives and his penchant for inappropriate heavy arms. The story quoted from a 1976 CIA report that there were "an assortment of licentious and financially corrupt relatives" of the Shah.

The *Globe* also reported that Mr Parviz Kia, chief of the American desk at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, pleaded with embassy officials to oust the Shah from the United States, where he had gone for medical treatment.



Food price increases in Poland

Farmers in France on offensive

From Jonathan Fenby
Paris, Jan 31

French farmers, always quick to leap to their own defence, are fighting on four fronts to ensure that their earnings in 1982 do not fall victim to the British Government, Italian wine producers, Spanish vegetable growers or the European Commission.

After six months in which cheap Italian wine imports were the most explosive subject on the French agricultural scene, Britain has taken over in the past week as the main bugbear of the country's 700,000 farmers.

The failure of the European Community to agree an agricultural budget is blamed squarely on what the French young farmers' organization called "Britain's exorbitant pretensions". The 9-per-cent increase in farm food prices proposed by the EEC Commission last week came in for an equally harsh reception as scandalous and stupefying.

The Israeli Cabinet today finally approved the participation of Britain, France, Holland and Italy in the multinational force to police Sinai after the Israelis complete their withdrawal in April.

The force of 2,500 from 11 countries would also include Australian and New Zealand troops. The Americans, who undertook to organize the force when the United Nations refused, will provide half the troops. Norway will supply

**Prisoners
'volunteer'
for Golan**

Tehran - Iran has declared a battalion of war volunteers from Iraq to aid Tehran radio quoted Ayatollah Khomeini's representative on the Supreme Council as saying forces would be summoned to the Golan Heights in Syria, joined by Israel in the war.

There have been a few reports from Iraq recently. They want to give their chance to make their own mistakes," he said. "We do not believe that they will allow the continuation of the Iraqi war and have the population of the Iraqi army prepared for dispatch over with Israel."

**Lafia suspect
held in Rome**

One - Signor Laia, who is believed to be a Major arrested while in the treatment in a hospital police said, he was held because he was suspected of being a member of the DRS, the secret service. On a recent visit to Italy, he was not able to leave the country because of the closure of the GDR film award to Dudley Moore.

On the morning of January 11th 1978, you might have been forgiven for mistaking the streets of Sheerness for Amsterdam or Venice.

While others were assessing the damage, we were paying for it.

On the morning of January 11th 1978, you might have been forgiven for mistaking the streets of Sheerness for Amsterdam or Venice.

After a night of near hurricane force winds and waves as high as houses, the East Kent coastline was quite simply blown to bits.

In the light of this thirty-mile trail of devastation, it became clear to us at Commercial Union that there was only one way we could be of real help.

Not with tea and sympathy or vague promises of compensation.

But rather by agreeing to claims immediately. On the spot.

Now, it's not every day you'll find us popping up on policyholders' doorsteps with a view to popping a cheque in the post.

After all, like any other insurance company, every claim we deal with involves certain formalities.

There are details to be noted down. Policies to be checked.

Assessments to be made. And so on.

A process that can take anything from five minutes to five months. Or even longer.

Speaking for ourselves, we prefer to simplify the paperwork, for the sake of a speedy settlement.

Which is precisely how we coped with the mopping up of East Kent.

On January 12th, with the storm damage barely a day old, we set up an emergency claims centre in Canterbury.

Within two working days we had our own team of claims inspectors out and about on the waterways, personally totting up the cost of repairs.

In all, we paid out £15,000 from just one branch, to more than 400 policyholders.

So they could start rebuilding their lives, while others were still getting estimates.

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.

We've been baling people out all over the country, just recently.

Since the start of the thaw the claims have been flooding in by the thousand.

Of course, we're still wading through the paperwork.

But we like to think we're coping quicker than most.

You see, we don't mind getting our feet wet. Even at weekends.

In Cardiff, for example, we opened specially on Sunday.

In Bristol, we've already made interim payments to several hundred policyholders.

In Liverpool, we've authorised our local inspectors in the worst affected areas to settle straightforward claims, on the spot.

That's the story so far. And it's absolutely watertight.

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.



Four years on, our claim still holds water.

America role in sea law talks raises suspicion

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 31

President Reagan's announcement that the United States would return to negotiations for a law of the sea treaty has aroused fears that America would seek to amend the draft treaty concerning mining on the ocean floor.

President Reagan, who abruptly suspended American involvement in the eight-year-old negotiations last March, said the United States would seek a greater role in decision-taking on deep-sea mining and stronger protection for American mining interests.

Mr James Malone, an Assistant Secretary of State, said America would be seeking influence commensurate with its interests and concerns. He insisted this did not mean a veto over plans for extracting the vast mineral wealth from the ocean floor. But Mr T B Koh, the Singapore president of the law of the sea conference has already said any demand for changes in the draft treaty would be impossible to accommodate.

President Reagan said the United States remained committed to the multilateral treaty. "If working together at the conference we can find ways to fulfil these key objectives, my administration will support ratification by the Senate," he said.

The next session of the 150-nation third conference begins early next month. Most participants had expected that the marathon negotiations would end last year. But the United States sought to ensure that there was sufficient time for the Reagan Administration to review the draft conventions.

American officials said the seabed offered a potentially important alternative source of minerals. While current world demand and metals

markets did not justify commercial development, multinational consortiums had invested substantial amounts to develop technology and prospect.

President Reagan said in his announcement on Friday: "I am announcing today that the United States will return to those negotiations and work with other countries to achieve an acceptable treaty."

President Reagan said that in the negotiations the United States would try to achieve the goal of a treaty:

1. Would not deter development of any deep seabed mineral resources to meet national and world demand;

2. Would assure national access to these resources by current and future "qualified entities" to enhance American security of supply, to avoid monopolization of the resources by the operating arm of the proposed international authority, and to promote the economic development of the resources;

3. Would provide a decision-making role in the deep-sea seabed regime that fairly reflected and effectively protected the political and economic interest and financial contributions of participating states;

4. Would not allow for amendments to come into force without approval of the participating states, including in the United States case the consent of the Senate in Washington;

5. Would not set other undesirable precedents for international organizations;

6. Would be likely to receive the consent of the Senate. The convention should not contain provisions for mandatory transfer of private technology and participation by and funding for national liberation movements.

Ghana's holy war

Rawlings sticks to his guns

From Godfrey Morrison, Accra, Jan 31

Though it is a month now since the military took over, isolated shots and occasional short bursts of automatic fire break the silence of the curfew here almost nightly.

Sometimes soldiers simply fire into the air for no apparent reason. Inevitably, the shots encourage the spread of rumours, which proliferate in the Ghanaian capital, and help to feed the growing uncertainty about the intentions of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings' regime, and its ability to solve the country's problems.

To some extent, the continuing atmosphere of uneasiness and crisis has been encouraged by Flight Lieutenant Rawlings and his Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), which toppled the civilian regime of President Mills Lissim on New Year's Eve.

Their rhetoric is shrill — the country has not simply experienced its fifth coup d'état since independence, but is undergoing a "holy war" against corruption, as a part of a "people's revolution" — and some of their actions have been few.

In the past few days the Government-controlled press has raised the political temperature further by publishing a series of reports suggesting that Britain, the United States, Nigeria, France, Togo and Cameroon are involved in a plot to launch a mercenary invasion, aimed at overthrowing the PNDC and restoring President Mills to power.

Western diplomatic sources regard the campaign as an attempt by the regime to gather support by conjuring up an external threat, and have expressed fears that it could unleash a wave of xenophobia.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings' regime certainly looks in need of all the cement it can get if it is to hold together. Its cohesion is threatened by a number of factors.

The PNDC's power rests ultimately on the armed forces. The coup was by no means bloodless, and involved fighting between army units which, reliable sources

say, probably left about 50 dead. There is clear evidence that junior and middle-ranking officers in many units are now largely ignored, with the real power of command passing to warrant officers, sergeants and other NCOs.

The Government's most enthusiastic civilian supporters are among the students and workers. The National Union of Ghanaian Students (NUGS), however, has already attacked a number of the appointments made by the PNDC to the civilian "Government" which is to implement its policies.

As for the workers, their main reason for supporting the PNDC is the hope that it will carry out Flight Lieutenant Rawlings' promise to improve the economic lot of the ordinary Ghanaian.

It is by no means certain that they can do this.

It is on the economic front that the PNDC, like its predecessors, faces its most daunting task. The country is saddled with massive foreign debts, and its main export revenue-earner, cocoa, has been in steady decline for several years. As an emergency measure, the PNDC has despatched students to the countryside to help with moving the crop to the ports.

The new Government's "Libyan connexion" has led to much speculation in diplomatic circles here. Within a few days of the coup, a Libyan delegation arrived in Accra, and the PNDC's first foreign policy initiative was to restore diplomatic relations with Tripoli, which had been broken off in November 1980 by President Lissim.

Though Flight Lieutenant Rawlings has visited and praised Libya and some of the people who engineered the coup had received training there, Western sources here doubt that the coup was engineered by Colonel Gaddafi's Government. They also express scepticism at the idea that the Libyans would wish, or be able in their present comparatively straitened circumstances, to take the place of Ghana's traditional friends.

Calvo Sotelo defers election

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Jan 31

The Spanish Parliament opens tomorrow, with the Calvo Sotelo Government having to devote all its energies to surviving after opting against calling an early general election.

The Government risks a situation where, at worst, it can muster only 151 votes against 153 in a line-up of all opposition groups after last week's defection of three MPs from the Centre Democratic Union to the right-wing Democratic Coalition of Señor Manuel Fraga. Ten Social Democrats headed by a former justice minister abandoned the Government in November.

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, made it clear in Torremolinos

Strasbourg attacks brushed off by Turks

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, Jan 31

General Kenan Evren, Turkey's military ruler, today reacted strongly to the Council of Europe's condemnation of his regime but denied Turkey would be withdrawing in protest.

The council's parliamentary assembly passed a resolution attacking military rule and proposing an official inquiry into widespread abuses of human rights in Turkey, but General Evren said today he would not allow such an investigation.

General Evren, in a televised speech, accused certain members of the assembly of showing a total disregard for events which necessitated the army takeover "as explained with unprecedented patience and goodwill to various fact-finding delegations of the council" and closing their eyes to the considerable progress towards the restoration of democracy.

"It is just not possible to explain the attempts to sever Turkey's relations with the Council of Europe, either with the professions of friendship to the Turkish nation, or with the dictated of the council's statutes or with the current situation in Turkey," he said.

The pressures directed to prevent Turkey from attaining the aims of September 12 military takeover, or in other words, the adoption of resolutions which constitute a clear intervention in the domestic affairs of the country, can never be accepted by the Turkish nation," he said.

"If some of these governments let them interfere, in the developments in Turkey assume a nature of intervention in our domestic affairs, no one should doubt that our reaction will be final and remorseless," he added.

Political observers here,

taking their cue from him, dropped by officials, do not rule out the possibility of Turkey downgrading its diplomatic relations with the Council of Europe.

General Evren said: "Turkey is not a country which will fear the possible consequences of its decision, allow itself to be swayed away from its national aims, and compromise its dignity and sovereignty".

His speech also contained attacks on Greece. "Certain members of the parliamentary assembly were obviously motivated not by their concern for democracy, but with the disputes between their country and Turkey," he said.

There was an unlikely link between the attempts to revile Turkey and rising international terrorism.

Turkey's military rulers will face the charges of widespread torture of political prisoners and detainees. The latest report of Amnesty International holds that at least 70 people have died during detention, mostly while being interrogated since the coup.

INDONESIAN CONTRACTS FOR BRITAIN

From David Wattis
Manila, Jan 31

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in the Philippines today after a three-day visit to Indonesia at the end of which he announced a credit agreement for the largest package of British goods and services yet exported to Jakarta.

The Export Credit Guarantee Department will put up two lines of credit worth a total of £125m to finance part of the expansion of Indonesia's oil refinery at Balikpapan in East Kalimantan. Lord Carrington said about 100 British firms would be involved in the project, which will double the refinery's capacity from 200,000 barrels a day. The total cost is estimated a \$1,000m about (£500m).

British officials hope this work will lead to further opportunities for contracts involving the expansion of two other Indonesian refineries and the building of a fourth.

There is also optimism that Lord Carrington's visit could bring further contracts for British Aerospace for the Hawk trainer/ground attack aircraft, which is already operated by the Indonesian Air Force. At least four of their aircraft have been lost in accidents.

Calvo Sotelo defers election

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Jan 31

yesterday that he intends to soldier on for as long as he can. One Socialist leader, reflecting the widespread view here, forecast a general election in October or November — anyway, he added, after the Pope's scheduled visit to Spain this autumn.

The Prime Minister was in Andalucia where the first election to set up an autonomous regional government is due in May, and he launched a rumbustious attack on the opposition party, pointing to the uncertainty for Spain that their winning office would mean.

The Cabinet discussed the deflection on Friday and a majority of those present making up the rest of the 350-seat lower house apparently backed the

Premier's resolve. The judgment that it would be disastrous for the ruling Centre Party to go to the country now was uppermost.

Undoubtedly, important factors behind the Prime Minister's decision are the imminent trials of those senior officers allegedly involved in last February's attempted coup and his desire to get Spain into Nato in time for President Reagan's visit here in June.

Señor Calvo Sotelo's strongest help comes from the Socialists, who do not want a general election now.

To survive, the Government must find support from among the other groups making up the rest of the 350-seat lower house.

Apart from occasional

The Times Profile: Elizabeth II

Thirty years of rule that changed reverence to affection



A greater public accessibility: the Queen at the Royal Windsor Horse Show



1952: Opening her first parliament

anyone else. And if she is rich enough to give her daughter Gatcombe as a wedding present, she ought to be able to afford a new runabout for the Windsor estate. But she prefers to hang on to her ancient green F-registered Vauxhall estate with lino on the floor to prevent the dogs from mudding it.

The manufacturers have reportedly tried to present her with one of their later models, at their expense, but she sees no reason to change it; it still goes.

Her relaxed mien must also stem from a knowledge that her position as constitutional monarch is currently held in high esteem. At a time of social unrest in an age when political leaders of all hues are tarred with the same brush of ineffectual mediocrities, she smiles relentlessly all day long is liable to suffer from jocklawd. At times during last year's royal wedding she looked positively grim, but then she did have weighty thoughts of ceremony and security on her mind. When an over-energetic conductor sent one of the choir stall lampshades flying, her face broke into a smile of quite wicked delight as intended.

Those close to her suggest that her more relaxed pose springs from the current state of her family. Her son is safely married off with an heir on the way, and her sometimes difficult sister seems to have sailed into calmer personal waters.

About the Snowdon divorce she was both understanding and astute; Lord Snowdon

remains a close friend, and after the Queen had attended the confirmation service for Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones she roused her press secretary at home in the middle

of Match of the Day to

suggest the release of a picture showing she was there.

It made all the front pages, and was her subtle and effective way of indicating that the parties to the divorce had been forgiven.

However, the Queen takes her responsibilities at the centre of a very public and therefore highly influential family very seriously.

And although the Snowdens were treated gently over their divorce, the break-up of a marriage is still seriously frowned upon. The attitude of Mrs Simpson still lingers. When Lord Harewood, the Queen's cousin, divorced he was swiftly removed from proximity to the Royal Family at state occasions.

She has not changed in its essentials since; certainly the job is more or less exactly what it was in 1952. What does change is how her subjects perceive Elizabeth.

Norman St John Stevas, MP, an acute observer of the constitutional monarchy, put it to me thus: "The monarchy has become our only truly popular political institution at a time when the House of Commons has declined in high esteem.

The monarchy is, in a real sense, underpinning the other two estates of the realm."

In the time of Victoria, a threat to abolish the Lords

would have meant that the

armies and navy would

be disbanded.

Today, the Queen's popularity is based on her

ability to charm and

entertain.

She has not

changed in her

style or mannerism.

She has not

changed in her

attitude to politics.

She has not

changed in her

style of dress.

She has not

changed in her

style of behaviour.

She has not

changed in her

style of speech.

She has not

changed in her

style of writing.

She has not

changed in her

style of thinking.

She has not

changed in her

style of life.

She has not

changed in her

style of work.

She has not

changed in her

style of hobbies.

She has not

changed in her

style of interests.

She has not

changed in her

THE ARTS

Opera

Flexible charms

Opera 80

Northcott Theatre, Exeter

Opera 80 have pulled out a real bag of tricks this time. With Ali Bongo as magical consultant, Stephen Lawless has conjured up a solution to the problem of staging the central act of their new production of *Die Fledermaus* perfectly suited to the needs of this small Arts Council touring company, who will play in the small spaces of 16 more provincial venues over the next nine weeks.

Gone is the crowded ballroom; a conjurer entertains a sophisticated and nicely detailed dinner party, magicking dancing girls from under his cloak, fluttering streams of scarves from his hat, his most sinister trick marked with the sign of the bat. Champagne sparkles in a whirl of coloured lights, dancing as in a *Hundertwasser* painting against the restless patterning of the set.

John Gill's elegantly proportioned 1912 sets (the jail is as pleasing to look at as the crowning lines and rosy light of Merchant's house) encourage the convincing simplification and scaling down of costume and movement. Complemented by David Parry's vivacious, always discreetly flexible direction of the small orchestra, and witty new lyrics and libretto by Parry and Lawless, the production moves with a strong, seductive momentum that conceals its own art.

Since there is no Frankie Howerd to help out with the last act, Michael McLean's lovable night-porter of a Frosch bows to the drunken recollections in a delightful dumb-show monologue by Eric Roberts as a strongly projected governor. Frank, just as vocally assured and coherently characterized are Stewart Buchanan's suave Falke and Michael Culman's Eisenstein, though chief honours go to the women: Gillian Sullivan so intelligent and enchanting as Adele that I wish we could have seen more of her, and Catherine McCord as a radiant, versatile Rosalinde.

It is the company's wise policy to exchange principals and choruses between their two productions. Miss McCord surfaced from the chorus of Stewart Trotter's *Figaro*, the night before, in which William Mann, two years ago, had hoped she might play the Countess. In a production in which both Marcellina's role and the restless comic business have expanded, and the vocal strength, alas, generally diminished, Elizabeth Brice takes on the part as a scarcely credible pantomime dame, epitomizing the shallow investigation of her relationship with the Count, the deaf ear turned to their music. Mozart tells us that his asking for pardon is of a quite different nature from Eisenstein's; but here the audience's laughter drowned even that exquisite moment.

Eric Roberts is less at home in his Count's costume, Delth Brook a winsome but as yet projected Susanna to Neil Jansen's Figaro. Thank goodness for the musicianship and stage sense of Elise Ross, new to the company, whose Cherubino, no less than her beguiling Orlofsky, had absorbed the music deeply enough to radiate the part with both sensitivity and aplomb.

Hillary Finch

The Allegri Quartet is to perform all Beethoven's string quartets in the course of six weekly concerts, every Thursday from February 11, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra/Gardiner

Festival Hall

For Mozart's birthday, John Eliot Gardiner's coupling of the C minor Mass and his *Requiem*, with his Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra, was a tardy but still topical offering. As a coup, I must aver, not without fear of hubris, that it may have been too much of a good thing.

Between his two greatest, incomplete Masses Mozart's musical thinking altered radically, and of course the music changed likewise. But in both works, as in all his sacred music, he was wearing, so to speak, his church mitre. Worthy as he was to put one on, it caused him to compose in a character almost irrelevant to his own musical persona, so rooted are the stylistic premises of his church music in the baroque manner of his predecessors.

If Friday's concert set others thinking afresh about the two works, then the coupling was worthwhile. But neither work seemed to me as pungently interpreted by Gardiner and his colleagues as could be expected from this excellent complex of musicians. They all gave an impression of anxious edge, rather than the adrenalin-inspired excite-

The tradition of the First Night is by no means as loved and respected as many suppose.

Irving Wardle puts the theatre critic's point of view

Opening ceremonies

Last month I had a call from Peter Gill asking me to have another look at his production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. He was not happy about the original reviews, particularly those that bewailed its lack of a POV (Point of View), and said the performance had come on so much that he now considered it the best piece of work he had done at the National Theatre.

As one of those who joined in last August's guarded chorus, I accepted the invitation and went to see the show again. In outline it was exactly what I remembered: a clean, well-proportioned reading on a stage as bare as a runway. It did not seem to have gathered much new business (apart from the girls' screaming exit at the arrival of Claudio's wedding party), and Dogberry was still making a meal of his malapropisms. What had changed was the atmosphere. Words like "cool" and "austere" no longer applied. The house had warmed up, and Gill's use of varying stage depths for changes in focus between grand-scale conflict and direct address had taken on the natural rhythm of a breathing lung. It was as if the company were sharing the work with a few friends, indicating its dark side without tearing the comedy apart, and

giving a wonderfully free run to the two principals. I have never enjoyed the play more.

This is not a review. If it were, I would have to explain the enjoyment, and maybe end up by qualifying it. But the real question is how far the performance itself has changed, and how much it was originally undervalued as a result of the first night routine. It is often said that reviewers get things wrong because they see work under artificial conditions. As their presence helps to create those conditions, some degree of artificiality is inescapable. But even more artificial is the practice of judging a production on the experience of any single night, the first or the fifth.

It has its own life-span, growing and changing with time, and, according to a director like Jonathan Miller, the most interesting things have usually happened before the public arrive. To do full justice to any show, whether a comedy-thriller or an uncut *Hamlet*, would take a book rather than a few hundred words.

As that is not going to happen, there is something to be said for the first night as a moment when rehearsals come together in what Peter Brook calls the Grand Exercise. A production is not an athletic event, but if it has to be tested on a single performance you might as well pick one when the company are most likely to be on form. Joan Littlewood, who ignored the existence of first nights, would deny that; and many actors would qualify. Alec McCowen, for instance, says that first nights are always bad in comedy — "Especially if you've had a good preview. You keep trying to imitate it and listening for the laughs. Not as good as last night, you think, and you start pushing. Like we did in *Fish*."

Comedy is often an ordeal for the reviewer as well, sitting stone-faced among the ranks of bared teeth and wondering why jokes too feeble for the breakfast table should be going down so well with the paying customers. One ans-

wer, of course, is that some of them have not paid. Managements may have given up the old custom of belling for paid laughters, but there is still plenty of laughter from people helping their friends along, and reviewers have to decide how much of it is genuine, and how far they should acknowledge an audience reaction that contradicts their own. It takes some arrogance to quibble about the structural imperfections of a show that has had people falling off their seats. Go too far in the other direction, and you join forces with the Broadway statistician whom Alan Ayckbourn saw solemnly listing every titter, chuckle, and deep rich belly laugh, and then adding them all up.

Such examples come mostly from the commercial theatre, to which the first night owes its image of chauffeur-driven cars blocking narrow streets, snatching photographs on the door and interval voices braying for pre-ordered drinks. It is not as bad as it used to be in the 1950s when getting into the "Haymarket Play" was like gate-crashing Ascot and it usually turned out that the more trivial the entertainment the more stifling the surrounding ceremony. Nowadays, the furs and dinner-jackets are less thick on the ground, and the star-worship less hysterical.

Toby Rowland, the head of the powerful Stoll group, declares himself in favour of this change. "In the case of a big star, the agents start demanding tickets, which we try to discourage. We want to get the general public in, they're the ones who are going to see the show." Sometimes this is easier said than done. Reviewers form only one fraction of the first night allocation: seats also go out to the company, the producing management, the theatre owner, and with a large-cast musical it can easily happen that the show opens without a single member of the general public in the house.

Until the Arts Council and the GLC acquire the first night habit, subsidized theatres escape this



Michael Gambon and Penelope Wilton in Peter Gill's production of "Much Ado About Nothing": a wonderfully free run

kind of scrum. At the National

Theatre, first-night houses are papered only with the press and people in the building who have worked on the production. Board members and educational representatives get their turn at a guest preview. The Royal Shakespeare Company some years ago began a campaign to deglamourize first nights by cutting down the complimentary list and aiming at the atmosphere of a normal performance in which the actors could show their wares properly. At the Aldwych, this was coupled with a reduction in prices for previews and first nights; and from next month Stratford will be brought into line with this system.

I pass over the possibility that this change may have something to do with last year's audience figures, and move on to another

first night factor no less distracting than the Ayckbourn chuckle-count. I refer to the build-up: the arrival of a show on a tide of advance publicity heralding whatever it is as the Big One and reducing the unveiling ceremony to a mere matter of form. The West End, to give it its due, is less prone to this manoeuvre than the subsidized sector. It was the RSC's Trevor Nunn who supplied last year's biggest commercial build-up with his New London production of *Cats*. And, although that show swept most of my colleagues off their feet, reviewers as a breed generally resist being stamped, and not least when the rest of Fleet Street has been labouring the significance of some upcoming event.

When it arrives, we are apt to cast our tiny spanner in the

works: sometimes very unfairly, as in the disgraceful dismissal of *Nicholas Nickleby* ("too long"), said the overnight brigade, while the audience were further prolonging it with a 15-minute curtain call; sometimes justly, I believe, as in the case of the NT's *Orestes* and the lamentable scramble onto Schmitz's revolving band-wagon. Fair or unfair, such reactions apply to the pre-publicity as well as to the show. Being told what to think creates as much resistance as listening to the deep, rich belly laughs of the theatre owner's party. Given a chance, the reviewer will always pick the role of the little boy in the Emperor's New Clothes, and any management that values his opinion will leave him alone to watch the parade without the help of courtiers or proclamations.

Dance

Cheerful spirits

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

David Peden, who danced the lead in *Les Patineurs* on Friday, brings an irresistibly cheerful spirit to the part, as well as the springy lightness, speed and crispness which make his many solo entries particularly dazzling. It is a long time, too, since we saw anyone come so close to restoring the original daring of one series of revolving leaps where the skater tries to throw his feet higher than his down-turned head.

Deirdre Eyden's smoothly romantic skater in white, with Fiona Chadwick and Genesia Rosato prettily neat as the two in red, were the other outstanding members of this new cast. Jennifer Jackson and Rosemary Taylor as the blue girls were perky in the trio with Peden, but made heavy going of their solos; perhaps the whole ballet should be handed over to the younger dancers.

There were new young interpreters also in *My Brother, My Sister*, Kenneth MacMillan's enigmatic but fascinating portrait of an enclosed family destroying itself. Ashley Page is another dancer distinguished by physical bravado; the way he hurls himself about the stage has an apparent recklessness that whips up the tension among the sisters.

Brony Brind brings an unexpectedly knowing air to the first sister, which makes sense once you see the lascivious relish with which she sets about seducing the brother and picking off her sisters. Ross MacGibbon gives a puzzled, sturdy manner to the outsider who watches their progression into depravity; Lesley Collier continues to strengthen her portrait of the innocent victim.

John Percival



Robert Addie as Stally and John Sterland as Mr Prout in "Stally & Co": very resistible

Television

Credibility gap

You do not have to be Spanish to go along with all that bit about. The Poet as the smeller, King or Prout's, and Prout's wife, as well as Beetle shot a cat by mistake and Stally over the corner in the roof above King's dorm, this was construed as a clear moral victory for independence of mind. Nicely enough done, producer Barry Letts, director Rodney Bennett — but sadly unfunny and smug.

Milos Forman on *The South Bank Show* (BBC2) spoke well of his early career in Czechoslovakia — extracts from *A Blonde in Love* and *The Fremen's Ball* (it emerged that, after all, the firemen had adored it) came up wonderfully — but less well from *Taking Off* onwards, and least well of all, alas, on the imminent *Ragtime* which he seems to have turned into a cross between *Roots* and *Cabin in the Sky*.

In the *Open Door* programme *Protest and Survive* (BBC2), Schools Against the Bomb uncovered Post-Nuclear Man. His name is Keith Bridge and he works from a bunker on Humber Bridge whence he prepares the few for the worst in the spirit of 1940 and answers the questions of importunate children with a keen, cold stare and the kind of fast fluttering around the eyelids that *Wildlife on One* warns us to watch out for in female baboons. He will be The Controller for the area and speak in capital letters of Total Control and Powers of Life and Death. Did that sort of power worry him a bit? It did not. Indeed, nobody could watch this bracingly scornful programme without feeling that Humber Bridge could hardly wait for it all to begin.

If Friday's concert set others thinking afresh about the two works, then the coupling was worthwhile. But neither work seemed to me as pungently interpreted by Gardiner and his colleagues as could be expected from this excellent complex of musicians. They all gave an impression of anxious edge, rather than the adrenalin-inspired excite-

ment of performing great music in the Festival Hall.

Both performances were decent, Gardiner made sure that pulses were lively and that double chorus balanced neatly, unoppressively, with orchestra, even in fugues; chord lines were always firm and clear. He omitted the plain-song intonations, a mistake since they set a section in proper balance: a *Glory or Credo* is like a rickety stool without them.

The soloists were sensibly chosen, Stafford Dean reliable and sensitive on the bass line (he sings too seldom in London), Isabel Buchanan more variable in technique, though musical; Diana Montague and Linda Finnie gave pleasure, even more the flexible *splento* sound of the tenor Laurence Dale. William Mann

Concerts

It is of course cheering to see a soloist who so obviously loves the music and indeed can hardly bear not to dance through a Mozart ritornello. She certainly draws a beautiful tone from her flute, and has a top with a real hint of the voluptuous, pure but faintly summery, and she plays with vim and wit. She fails short in technical accomplishment: almost every stretch of passage-work produced a scramble, with missed notes, unclear articulation and often unsteady rhythm. And her cadenzas, in the Andante in C and the Concerto in D, showed uncertain taste.

The Wren Orchestra are a capable body and at their best played firmly and neatly for Ronald Thomas. He first, in this Mozart programme, conducted the *Kleine Nachtmusik*, tidily if with little point or sparkle; a conductor ought surely to convey an awareness of the numerous happy twists in even so familiar a score. Last he did the *Haffner Serenade*, directing and playing the solo violin, doing the latter with grace and with sweet, silvery tone. He brought due sturdiness to the symphonic opening movement; but too often, and especially when he was soloist as well as director, the music was apt to sound choppy and ill-balanced, and to lack a sense of shape (perhaps this is so difficult to impart while playing the violin that we ought not seek it in music where this kind of remark can also command re-

direction was presumed). He was also inclined to hurry it, which can mar such a movement as the Andante in A, though his first oboist found time to bring out expressive solos.

As the evening wore on the orchestra became progressively more careless, and too many entries were missed, tentative or simply wrong.

Stanley Sadie

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MR REAGAN IN PERSON

One of the side effects of the Polish crisis has been to demonstrate the lack of understanding and confidence within the western alliance. This has come about partly because the United States and a number of its European partners, especially West Germany, made conflicting interpretations of events in Poland. It can be attributed partly to the confusion that exists in Washington over the making of foreign policy under the present administration because Mr Haig neither has the authority to make policy on his own nor sufficiently good relations with his colleagues to cooperate happily in making policy jointly. He becomes too easily obsessed with questions of jurisdiction.

But there is another, deeper weakness in the alliance that has been highlighted by the Polish tragedy: there is insufficient trust in American leadership. There is nothing new in this. For years it has been evident that the alliance can thrive only when there is confidence in strong American leadership, and under successive Presidents it has been evident that this confidence has been missing. Sometimes their policies have repelled European opinion,

but there has been a more personal factor as well. Not since the death of John Kennedy has an American President spoken to Europe in terms to which Europe has responded.

If confidence in the United States is to be restored in Europe it will require an exercise of personal leadership. It is therefore excellent news that President Reagan is to visit Europe in June. He came to office with one great advantage and one particular liability. He has a greater capacity than any President since Kennedy to speak in tones that can be appreciated beyond the shores of the United States. But he brought with him a reputation as a primitive extremist that is particularly distressing to European opinion. The reputation is unfair. It owed something, no doubt, to our failure to look at acts rather than rhetoric, something to liberal stereotyping. But it is political fact which the President and his advisers must take into account.

The best way for Mr Reagan to make the most of his asset and the least of his liability is for him to be seen in person. That was precisely what he is best fitted to do and what they most need to hear.

such effect in his election campaign. He destroyed the myth of the wild man, sedulously fostered by the Carter camp, by his appearance in the television debate with Mr Carter. How could anyone believe that the more relaxed and friendly candidate could be a threat to the world?

He needs to employ the same gift now in his dealings with Europe. The more he remains a remote figure in the White House the more it will be the Reagan caricature who is thought by European opinion to be the President of the United States. The more he talks with allied leaders — as he will be doing in the summit meetings in Europe, first of the industrialised nations and then of Nato — the better chance there will be of bridging the gap in understanding and devising a joint western approach, not just to Poland but also to the broader challenges of the 1980s. Yet even that will not be enough. If he is to reverse the dangerous tide of anti-American sentiment in western Europe he should take every opportunity to speak directly to the people on this side of the Atlantic. It is what he is best fitted to do and what they most need to hear.

Last, Mr Fairlie writes about "dispirited Americanism" here with the names of Mrs Thatcher and Mr Disraeli added for some emphasis that escapes me. It seems to me simply that our power is now greatly reduced and that pride in refusing to recognise this positively hobbles us. Regard the absurdity of Mr Heath's trade in Johannesburg last year — a sort of Broken Wind of Change speech. Very soon afterwards his old South African comrades in arms captured a great cache of Russian arms complete with snow-booted operators. I found the contrast between moralistic waffle and the exercise of power for survival quite shaming.

Our forbears used to be much better at using small power for great purposes.

Yours faithfully,
P. F. BREAKELL,
11 Fitzroy Square, W1.

FREEING TRAVEL FROM MONOPOLY

The business, commerce and political unity of Europe requires easy and economical travel. It does not have it in the air. The contrast with the United States is striking; competitive air travel has shrunk the continent so that the Boston publisher thinks nothing of popping down to Houston for the biography of an oilman. But Europe, which is supposed to be drawing closer together, is being driven apart by the national pride in flying the flag. It is this which underlies the excessive cost of flying on scheduled services: the British businessman thinks three times before adding to his costs with a £300-plus air trip to Madrid.

The British Government, happily for once fulfilling its competitive instincts, is trying to do something about reducing European air fares. It is not encouraged by British Airways which is dragging its feet, but it has in the private person of Lord Bethell a spear-carrier of exemplary courage. It is his persistence against a weight of political and bureaucratic inertia that would have made Kafka witt that has put the issue firmly on the agenda. This week he is expected personally to sue Sabena, the Belgian air line, in the English county courts. He claims that they overcharge him by about £50 each time he flies to Brussels, contrary to EEC law.

There are those who hold that Lord Bethell is reducing what is essentially a political and commercial argument to a narrowly legalistic one and that his actions are therefore unhelpful. He himself believes on the contrary that commercial and political pressure have failed so singly

over the years to crack the European price fixing that the sharp needle of legal denunciation is the only way of producing a response. He deserves support for trying. As the article on the opposite page shows, it is possible to fly from London to destinations in North America more cheaply than to Europe. This is so partly because certain costs are higher in Europe (but need they be?) and because the traffic is less dense; but it is also because if an outside airline seeks to introduce a new low fare on a national route the national airline will swiftly have the fare prohibited by its government. Lord Bethell and the British Government argue that this is contrary to the Treaty of Rome which requires free competition within the Common Market. That is why he is also suing the European Commission, goading it to act as watchdog.

It would be cavalier to dismiss the opposition by the monopoly state carriers in Europe as narrow self-interest. The President of Air France, M. Pierre Giraudet, argued in his Presidential address to IATA last autumn that free competition could not optimise the market. Weightier issues of freedom and order come into it. Air transport, he argued, is part of the nation's activity that no country can do without. No nation could rely on a foreign company driven only by the profit motive for its exchange with the rest of the world. Some company will always be found, he argued, to provide tariffs which only cover variable costs so as to fill planes. Its national competitor and others would then be forced

money, in effect it can put up spending only within the limits set by the domestic governments of the Ten, who have good political reasons back home for keeping expenditure strictly under their own control and in tune with their own electoral imperatives.

It was extraordinary that the constituent governments of the EEC should ever have conceded the right of Parliament to any voice at all in the Community budget. They did, though reluctantly. In 1970 the budgetary provisions of the treaties were amended, and the Council of Ministers itself asked the Commission to submit proposals on the Parliament's budgetary powers. Two years later nothing had happened.

Georges Spenale, the French socialist, persuaded the Parliament to use the ultimate deterrent of a censure motion against the Commission. That motion was withdrawn only on the understanding that proposals would be forthcoming. In January 1975, new budgetary rules began to operate, and seven months later Parliament was given power to reject the Community budget — to this day its one substantial gain over the bureaucracy.

Nevertheless, it is still a power better ignored than used. Parliament's president has to sign the annual budget into operation, and more than once there have been delays. But only once has the Parliament rejected a budget lock, stock and barrel. That was the 1980 draft budget, with the able German trade unionist Erwin Lange as chairman of the budget committee and Peter Dankert as rapporteur. The budget did not pass until July. Meanwhile the Community lived on the short commons of 1979 — not least the Ten say must be as unchangeable as the Ten Commandments.

Robert Jackson said yesterday that the British Government and the European Parliament are taking the same road: "Both want a more cost-effective CAP and to expand the non-agricultural policies from which Britain benefits." I suspect that a few years ago, writing for *The Times*, he would have built in more qualifications, and a milder measure of politicians' licence. If only politicians would confess that every solution to a problem creates a new problem.

The point is that the Parliament wants to increase community spending, especially on domestic, social and regional policies, and unlike the govern-

ment of the Ten it wants to break through the one per cent ceiling on VAT receipts; and to reject the budget means limiting next year's budget to the same level as this year's. Therefore, it is a self-defeating operation. The only source of new revenue for the Parliament, which now exercises control over roughly a third of the Community budget, is to reduce spending on the common agricultural policy, which has been considered from the early days of the Six as obligatory. Nor is it certain that CAP cuts would carry its Secular statehood. I hope that his letter will not be taken as the authoritative voice of the Roman Catholic laity.

To some Allied soldiers nearly forty years ago and today to millions of Poles, the value of the minuscule Vatican City State has been demonstrated in war and in uneasy peace. But above all, to many of us, it is wholly desirable that the head of a Church with such a massive worldwide membership should be able to preach and write and pray in a state independent in international law of all other secular dominions.

Here will lie Robert Jackson's problem. One of his first projects as rapporteur will be the decision of the Council of Foreign Ministers to take the Luxembourg Court because Mine Vell signed the 1982 budget into operation after Parliament had increased expenditure without Council approval. Meanwhile, throughout the Community the farmers, and politicians who need their votes, have begun the fight for much bigger increases in CAP expenditure for 1982 than the Commission has proposed. Christopher Tugendhat, the Budget Commissioner, will soon be banging his head against the one per cent VAT ceiling, which at least half the governments of the Ten say must be as unchangeable as the Ten Commandments.

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Yours faithfully,
TOM O'CARROLL,
HM Prison,
Heathfield Road,
Wandsworth SW18.

Roosevelt and the use of power

From Mr P. F. Breakell

Sir, Mr Henry Fairlie's sharp insight into American affairs makes it the more surprising that his article (January 20) "Is Reagan a Roosevelt?" should be so wide of the mark.

In making this strange comparison he omits the vital factor — power and the national will to exercise it.

Were there 11 or 13 million unemployed in America between the start of the New Deal and the last war? Certainly there were many. Roosevelt dredged great power and comparative unity out of a national awareness of disaster to which he boldly and credibly claimed the only solution.

President Reagan has no such launching pad. American power and the willingness to use it have dreadfully declined in the affluent nuclear "peace" of the past 35 years. Caution, à la Carter, is all. Risk is not to be considered. How many will volunteer under that sort of banner? Nevertheless he tries hard for revival. He may be too late but I cannot believe that he does not deserve support.

Mr Fairlie overstates that fashionable word "compassion". Compassion, expressed in a sort of vacuum, is not only condescending but also feeble. Surely no president can go about demonstrating compassion as if he were a bishop. However, he may be able to provide it in material terms if he can arouse some sense of purpose in many of those who need to deserve it.

Last, Mr Fairlie writes about "dispirited Americanism" here with the names of Mrs Thatcher and Mr Disraeli added for some emphasis that escapes me. It seems to me simply that our power is now greatly reduced and that pride in refusing to recognise this positively hobbles us.

Regrettably, the main reaction by the industries so far has been to "play up" the cost implications of the PSI's report. The Electricity Council, for example, has claimed that PSI's recommendations will cost £61 million a year at current prices. It asserts these figures, but has been most reluctant to disclose to the Electricity Consumers' Council the full basis for its calculations of the specific assumptions used. Apparently, the gas industry has grossed up even higher costs. All these figures should be ignored as bureaucratic propaganda until the industries can substantiate them, and show that they have allowed for the offsetting financial benefits that PSI can bring.

Meanwhile, I hope the Government will note the recent enactment by New York State of the Home Energy Fair Practices Act. This imposes on the gas and electricity utilities a statutory disconnection code. It is more rigorous on some key points than anything we will get by voluntary agreement here, and more far reaching than many of the PSI's proposals.

Overall, the PSI's proposals will cut out most of the opportunities for abuse of the existing code by those who can afford to pay, leaving a system designed to deal automatically with the great majority of hardship cases, without resort to disconnection.

This is what the industries, and every other interested party, including the government, claim to want.

When fuel supplies are disconnected

From the Chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council

Sir, Early this month, the gas and electricity industries will give the Government their responses to the recommendations in the report, *Fuel Debts and Hardship*, published by the Policy Studies Institute last November.

This study was sponsored in 1978 by the industries, as well as the Electricity Consumers' Council and the National Gas Consumers' Council, under the guidance of the Department of Energy. It set out to discover whether the fuel boards' code of practice provides firm and effective safeguards against disconnection in cases of hardship. The review took nearly three years to complete, and it was very thorough.

The PSI found that the voluntary code of practice has not worked properly, and gives inadequate protection to those most vulnerable in their dealings with the fuel boards. It recommended a wide range of improvements, most of which my council — the statutory watchdog for London electricity consumers — has supported in its own submission to the Government.

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Establishing new long distance paths

From the Secretary of the Ramblers' Association

Sir, The Countryside Commission has just announced that the Cambrian Way long distance path, from Cardiff to Conwy, is not to be designated. The negative attitude of a number of Welsh local authorities has caused the commission to abandon the project.

There are several lessons to be drawn from this unfortunate decision. May I refer to two of them?

In the first place, the Cambrian Way saga has demonstrated the inadequacy of procedures for establishing new long distance paths. Although the commission is responsible for the designation of the paths and for paying 100% grant towards their maintenance, they have no actual powers to create the necessary rights of way. They have to rely entirely on the co-operation of local authorities along the route, and sometimes this is not forthcoming. In addition, the routes can only be created on a piecemeal basis, with separate orders and public inquiries being needed for each individual stretch of new path. Although the commission have indicated their desire for a more streamlined procedure, and although we promoted a suitable amendment during the passage of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, that opportunity was not taken up and the old procedures still remain.

A more important lesson concerns the role of the commission itself. The abandonment of the Cambrian Way has been offered as an example of the commission's switch in priority from recreation to conservation. The commission should tread very warily along this path. Already it is becoming heavily involved in the field of wildlife conservation, which is more properly the preserve of the Nature Conservancy Council.

At the same time it is closing regional offices and is handing over the administration of the Regional Councils for Sport and Recreation to the Sports Council. If these trends continue, people will come to question whether there is a need for the commission as a separate body at all. We would regard this as a tragedy because in our view the commission has a unique role as an organisation that can promote the national interests of informal recreation in the countryside. In pursuing this role, one of the commission's few executive powers is the designation and promotion of long distance paths. Following the decision on the Cambrian Way, the Commission should now demonstrate that this is a power which it intends to continue making good use of.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN MATTINLY, Secretary,
The Ramblers' Association,
15 Wandsworth Road, SW8.
January 28.

'Police' series

From Mr Roger Graef

Sir, As you are a newspaper of record, may I put straight the circumstances under which the Police series originated (article, Monday, January 25).

The idea emerged from John Sheare, Head of General Programme Unit, BBC Bristol, and Philip Daly, Head of the Bristol Network Production Centre, early in 1979. They approached the Association of Chief Police Officers for general approval of the series in the summer of 1979.

I was engaged as executive producer/director in November 1979. The team was then built that would make the series, including Charles Stewart as co-director/cameraman, and Amanda Theunissen, assistant producer and Glen Davis, researcher. We devoted the next few months to learning about a variety of police forces and their willingness to receive us openly. In April 1980 we settled on Thames Valley Police.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER GRAEF,
BBC Bristol,
Broadcasting House,
Whiteladies Road,
Bristol.

Shingles and shakes

From Mr M. W. Inman

Sir Fifty years ago I climbed trembling up the steeples' ladders to the spire of Ewhurst Church in Surrey, having just delivered 17,000 cleft oak shingles for its re-covering.

May I correct Mr. Stedman (Letters January 26) for calling them shales which means something very different in the home-grown timber trade and applies to the imported sawn article.

For well over a hundred years the firm founded by my great-grandfather produced many thousands of cleft oak shingles which were a by-product from the cleaving of larger items such as pales, spokes and barrel staves.

It is good to know that shingles are now being specially cleft more easily from chestnut which is unsuitable for spokes and staves.

Yours faithfully,
M. W. INMAN,
7 Southover High street,
Lewes, Sussex.

January 28.

Driving ambition

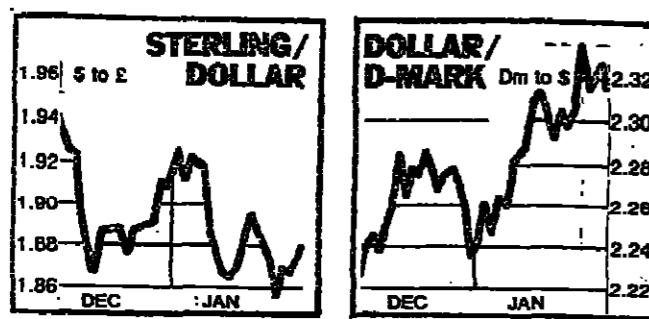
From Mr John Parker

Sir, I wonder how many schoolboys now wish to be engine drivers when they grow up.

Yours truly,
JOHN PARKER,
The Sycamores,
Devisdale Road,
Bowden,
Cheshire.
January 28.

BUSINESS NEWS

Spotlight on dollar



The dollar will be watched closely this week. European leaders are pressing for a cut in American interest rates which could cause it to weaken. But the disappointing money supplies figures limit the Federal Reserve Board's freedom to bring rates down.

CBI in Market campaign

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, today inaugurates a CBI campaign for Britain to remain within the EEC with a warning that the jobs of 2.5 million workers in British companies depend on the United Kingdom's continued membership. He said that hundreds of thousands of these would be jeopardized by pulling out.

Oil cut urged on Saudis

Pressure in Saudi Arabia to cut oil production and support falling prices mounted as Ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, yesterday. But Dr Mana Said al-Otaiba, the United Arab Emirates oil minister and president of Opec, said he did not expect an Opec meeting before that set for Quito, Ecuador, in May.

Warning on inflation

A warning that an increase in the money supply of as little as 1 per cent a year could eliminate the British balance of payments surplus has been given by Phillips & Drew, the stockbrokers, in their February economic forecasts.

The firm also expects no average real growth in gross national product between 1983 and 1985. Indeed, after achieving growth this year and in 1983, output could contract by 1.5 per cent in 1985.

Inflation is not expected to fall below 10 per cent a year for any significant period between now and the middle of the decade.

Easing tension

Japan has now formally adapted a series of measures to boost imports and soothe growing tension with the West over trade. Mr John Biffen, the Secretary of State for Trade, who is today starting a three-day official visit to Japan, will use the opportunity to encourage increased foreign investment in Japan.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Improvement hopes

contribute around £10m to full year profits. There should be a reasonable increase in dividend for the year to around 20p against 18.5p.

Electronics has been a glamorous sector in the recent past but has lost some of its gloss and half-year figures of Unitech due on Tuesday will bear this out and are likely to be below last year's £2.39m.

Mr Peter Curry, chairman, gave warning last September that profits for the full year would be flat but said that this year's rate would be similar to the previous year, when taxable profits amounted to £4.3m.

Depressed United Kingdom markets have been matched by a similar situation in both France and Germany, particularly the latter, where intense competition has badly hit its newly acquired subsidiary Eutech.

Dividend for the year should be held at 10p and with the shares at 22p yielding a mere 4.4 per cent.

Hilfords the York stores group, proved what increased market share could achieve when pre-tax profits leapt 72 per cent in the year to May.

INSURANCE

The Lloyd's Bill reaches a critical stage on Wednesday at its third reading in the House of Commons with Conservative backbenchers still opposed to the so-called "immunity clause" and threatening to vote it down unless Lloyd's agrees to compromise.

The "immunity" clause would give a new, non-political protection from being sued for damages by members of Lloyd's and the Lloyd's committee has made clear that it sees the clause as vital if it is to regulate the market properly in the future.

Last Friday, Mr Malcolm Pearson, a Lloyd's broker who has been lobbying against the immunity clause, met Lloyd's chairman Mr Peter Green to try to come to some understanding. But Mr Pearson would only say after the meeting: "We didn't agree but I would still be hopeful that we can."

It is, however, doubtful whether Lloyd's will step down, and if the Bill does not go through on Wednesday, it could fall through lack of parliamentary time.

Mr Peter Miller, the Lloyd's committee member who has been responsible for steering the Bill through, said the immunity clause had been closely examined at the committee stage of the Bill and Lloyd's had already refined it by proposing an amendment overriding the immunity in the event of clerical error. He said it was not possible to compromise now.

But Mr Archibald Hamilton, Conservative MP for Epsom and Ewell, who has taken a close interest in the Bill and opposes immunity said that he found Lloyd's attitude quite extraordinary.

The Bill is due for debate between 7 and 10 o'clock and a large number of amendments are being tabled. Mr Hamilton said: "I think it will get taken out unless some compromise is made."

He added that if that happened there was virtually no chance of getting more parliamentary time.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY: Interims—Electronic Machine, Hilfords, R H Morey, Regional Properties, Howard Textured, Textured Jersey, Warner Holiday. (6 months) Whitworth Electrical. Finals—Kellogg Trust.

TOMORROW: Interims—Cowen De Groot, Gold Fields of South Africa, Reed (9 months), Unilek, Zetts. Finals—IDC, Prestige.

WEDNESDAY: Interims—McKee Securities, Mid Wynd Trust, Merton Bros, Steinberg, Finsbury, Western Selection, Westminster Properties.

THURSDAY: Interims—Kings Rubber, Malaysia Rubber, Sentrus, Stonehill.

Fridays—Blundell-Pemoglaze, Lonsdale Universal Scottish Agricultural.

FRIDAY: Interims—Burt Boulton, Capital Reserve Fund, Dura Mill, English Associated, L Holdings, Portsmouth and Sunderland News (9 months). Finals—Associated Fisheries, Glasgow Stockholders Trust.

DIARY

Today: Select committee discusses Budgetary reform.

Tomorrow: CBI industrial trends survey for January; United Kingdom official reserves for January; Capital issues and redemptions for January.

Wednesday: Advance energy statistics for December; Commons discusses Lloyd's Bill.

Thursday: Public sector borrowing requirement and details of local authority borrowing for fourth quarter.

Friday: Housing starts and completions for December.

Companies reporting their results this week include Electronic Machine, Hilfords, Regional Property, Cowen de Groot, Gold Fields of South Africa, Reed and Unitech, Westminster Properties, Stonehill, Blundell-Pemoglaze, Burt Boulton and Associated Fisheries.

Industry renew fuel bills offensive

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Britain's energy-intensive industries are to step up demands on the Government to cut their fuel bills.

Anger over Whitehall's failure to reduce the disparity between prices paid for gas and electricity by some United Kingdom industries, including chemicals, steel, paper and board, compared with their European rivals, has been simmering since last autumn. It is now set to erupt again.

Two reports produced last year by a task force set up by the National Economic Development Council confirmed the extent of the energy price disparity. The second report, published last November, showed that in the case of most fuels the gap had closed. Even so, the UK's biggest power users were still paying up to 16 per cent more for electricity than in West Germany and up to 28 per cent more than in France.

The steel industry, which last year paid out £520m for gas, electricity and fuel oil, is spearheading the latest offensive. Steelmakers claim that its total energy cost disadvantage, compared with its European competitors, is equivalent to an additional £3 on every tonne of liquid steel it produces, is supporting representations made to ministers by the British Independent Steel Producers Association.

Hopes for cutting the industry's £260m a year electricity bill centre on the review of the Bulk Supply Tariff, carried out by the electricity supply industry which is now being studied by Mr Lawson. Indications are that any concession will fall well short of what companies believe is necessary to make them competitive with European steelmakers.

The electricity supply industry is suggesting a modification of its category C load management system implemented a year ago. This provided industrial customers with additional discounts in return for much shorter notice of supply reductions. It appears that the electricity industry is prepared to offer large industrial customers fewer supply reductions and longer notice of them.

The effect would be to reduce by about 5 per cent the price rises which the electricity industry will be introducing for all customers in the spring, and involving increases of about ten per cent.

Some steelmakers have told Mr Lawson that they want to be involved in discussion of any changes to the load management structure and tariffs before any decisions are taken.



London Metal Exchange: heavy buying of tin.

Malaysia confirms talks on tin cartel

By Michael Prest

A close association between Malaysia and buyers who have pushed up the price of tin by more than £2,000 a tonne has been confirmed by sources in Kuala Lumpur.

Moreover, Datuk Musa Hitam, Malaysian deputy prime minister, said over the weekend that Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia had been discussing setting up a Tin cartel. The other two

Asian countries should not regard themselves as free agents in a takeover battle. The union would not take kindly to any institution supporting a bid without all the details.

Burmah said that it believed the union had misunderstood the legislation which gave employees the right to merely consult with their own employer. Burmah could not give blanket assurances to all Croda employees, but the company had no plans to close any part of Croda.

It denied the allegation made by Mr Lyons that Burmah had a poor track record and dismissed the union's reference to the supposedly planned disposal of its Quinton Hazell subsidiary. The car spares company was bought by Burmah about 10 years ago for about £57m and may now be sold for about half this amount.

Quinton Hazell was acquired after a tough battle and employed more than 7,000 people, but as profits have tumbled Burmah is alleged to have decided that it now lies outside its long term plans. But Burmah denied that jobs were at stake and said Quinton Hazell would continue to have the Burmah's support.

Compensation argument reopens

By Ronald Pullen

The argument over the terms offered to Britain's aircraft and shipbuilding groups nationalised by the last Labour Government will be reopened in the next few weeks.

The European Community is now having to thrash out the delicate question of whether or not the compensation offered to companies is fair when the British Government decided to take the aircraft manufacturing and shipbuilding industries away from the private sector.

Last year several groups, including warship builders Yarrow and Vosper Thornycroft, Scott Lithgow, Vickers and GEC decided to press their claim for unfair treatment in the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The British Government was asked for its "observ-

Union set to test law in Croda bid

By Our Financial Staff

The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, Mr Clive Jenkins' white collar union, has intervened in Burmah Oil's bitterly contested takeover bid for Croda International in a move which could have far reaching implications.

The union believes its move under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981, which becomes law today, represents a big step in the development of industrial democracy.

The new regulations required that in the case of a takeover such as this an employer must consult with employees over possible redundancies. The union has 6,000 members at Croda, many in senior management, is demanding to know Burmah's plans.

Sir Alastair Down, chairman of Burmah, and Sir Freddie Wood, chairman of Croda, will today receive letters drawing their attention to the new legislation.

If the union does not get a satisfactory response, it will take its case to the Employment Appeal Tribunal of the High Court. Meanwhile, if Burmah manages to acquire 100 per cent of Croda, the union said that it would consider an injunction to prevent the deal.

"The whole ball-game of takeover battles will now be different", Mr Roger Lyons, national organizer of the Astms, said.

Institutional investors should not regard themselves as free agents in a takeover battle. The union would not take kindly to any institution supporting a bid without all the details.

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Call for concerted attack on inflation

The IPM chief also urged industrial nations to increase their international cooperation in dealing with economic problems.

Interest rates are set by the monetary and fiscal policies of the major industrial countries and "an improved mix of policies that would permit a fall of even one percentage point" in Eurocurrency market rates could result in a saving of \$2,000m in the external debt service costs paid by the non-oil developing nations.

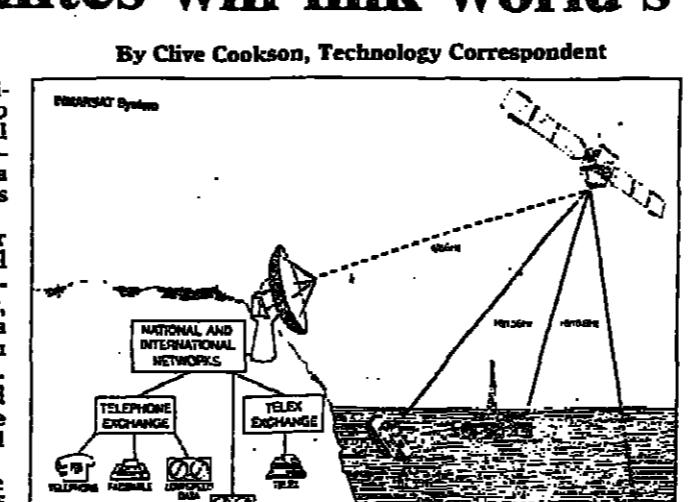
"More generally the development prospects of so many countries in the Third World critically depend upon the success of the industrial countries in achieving economic adjustment, while keeping the markets open and thereby laying the basis for a strong and sustainable recovery of world trade."

While the developing countries also must undertake "sound" economic adjustments, he stressed that the industrial countries must not ignore the "international dimensions" when they frame their own economic policies.

Leading UK role in \$250m network

Satellites will link world's ships

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent



The new path via satellite of ship-to-shore messages

limited satellite communications for ships since 1976.

Marchesa Maria Christina, widow of the wireless inventor, sent the first maritime radio message from the Isle of Wight to London in 1899, will inaugurate Inmarsat this year. She will be sending a welcome telegram from London to the thousand ships equipped for satellite communications.

Radio communications have been possible for ships

for 82 years but they were expensive and unreliable before it became possible to bounce transmissions off a satellite without fading and interference.

The world's merchant fleet consists of 70,000 ships over 100 tons, Mr Olaf Lundberg, director general of Inmarsat, said, so the potential for growth of mobile satellite communications was enormous. The number of vessels equipped with the one-meter dish antenna necessary to transmit and receive satellite communications is expected to exceed 5,000 by 1990.

A chain of coastal stations will collect ship-bound messages from the national and international telecommunications networks and beam them, as microwave signals, to the appropriate satellite. Signals from the satellites will be also relayed by the stations' destinations on shore.

Four stations are operating in the United States and Japan.

This appraisal of the world situation and what the industrial countries, in particular, need to do to break what he called the "stranglehold" of economic stagnation was contained in a speech at the European Management Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

ALUMINIUM

Overproduction hampers Invergordon sale hopes

The efforts to find a buyer for the Invergordon smelter, closed by British Aluminium a month ago, are taking place against a continuing slump in demand for aluminium and growing stocks.

The latest survey by the International Primary Aluminium Institute shows that the inventory of the world's producers jumped to 3 million tonnes at the end of November. That is more than a million tonnes more than a year ago and represents a 260m increase in the unsold stocks.

The oversupply is increasing despite the fact that the companies have begun to cut back production. The figure for worldwide primary production in December, just released by the institute, was 955,000 tonnes, compared to 1,081,000 tonnes in December 1980.

For an industry accustomed to sustained growth, it is a severe change. But it takes production back only to the average level of 1978.

The production cuts are most dramatic in North America (down from 489,000 tonnes in December 1980 to 423,000 tonnes in December

1981) and in East Asia (down from 83,000 to 50,000 tonnes).

The Asian slump is a consequence of Japan's realisation that it makes little sense to maintain a domestic aluminium industry with expensive imported energy.

Aluminium smelting is one of the most energy-intensive processes invented by man, and it makes sense only if very cheap electricity is available.

The spot price of aluminium on the London Metal Exchange has been around the £600 per tonne level for the past three months, compared with a peak above £900 two years ago. Producers are therefore having to offer customers big discounts on their official list prices, which are generally above £800.

The average production cost of aluminium is now about £700 per tonne (although the actual figure depends on local electricity costs).

Many producers are operating at a substantial loss. For example, Kaiser, one of the leading American pro-

SALEM CASE

Stolen oil cargo judgment due

The Court of Appeal is expected to give judgment this week in the case of the Salem, the tanker scuttled two years ago by its owners to disguise the fact that they had stolen its \$56m cargo of oil and sold it to the South African Government.

The crew abandoned ship well-supplied with coffee and sandwiches. Their suitcases were packed, which aroused suspicion. To add to the mystery, Oxford Shipping, the shipowners, have now disappeared.

Shell International, the owners of the oil, has already accepted \$30.5m (£16.3m) compensation from the Strategic Fuel Fund Association of South Africa.

But Shell is suing Mr Carl Anthony Vaughan Gibbs, Lloyds underwriter for the balance of the cargo value, which it claims is covered under its 200-year-old standard shipping insurance policy.

The main issue before the Court of Appeal is the scope of a clause in the Lloyd's policy which insures cargo against what it calls "takings at sea".

The insurers have refused to pay up because, they say, the "taking" was not at sea because the plan to steal the oil was completed before it was loaded on the tanker in

Kuwait, and the cargo was stolen before the Salem even set sail.

Shell disputes this, contending that something is stolen only when it is physically taken, not when the thief decides he is going to take it. The cargo was not therefore taken until the tanker was diverted from its course to discharge illegally at Durban.

Shell argues that the tanker was taken at sea and that this "eventuality" is covered by the insurance policy. Its counsel cited the 1981 case of *Grundy v Fulton*, where the judge held that a lorry driver had stolen a load of aluminium when he delivered it to a receiver of stolen goods, and not when

Clive Cookson

STEEL

Merger approval awaited

The owners of West Germany's second and third largest steel producers are expected to approve plans for their eventual merger later this week.

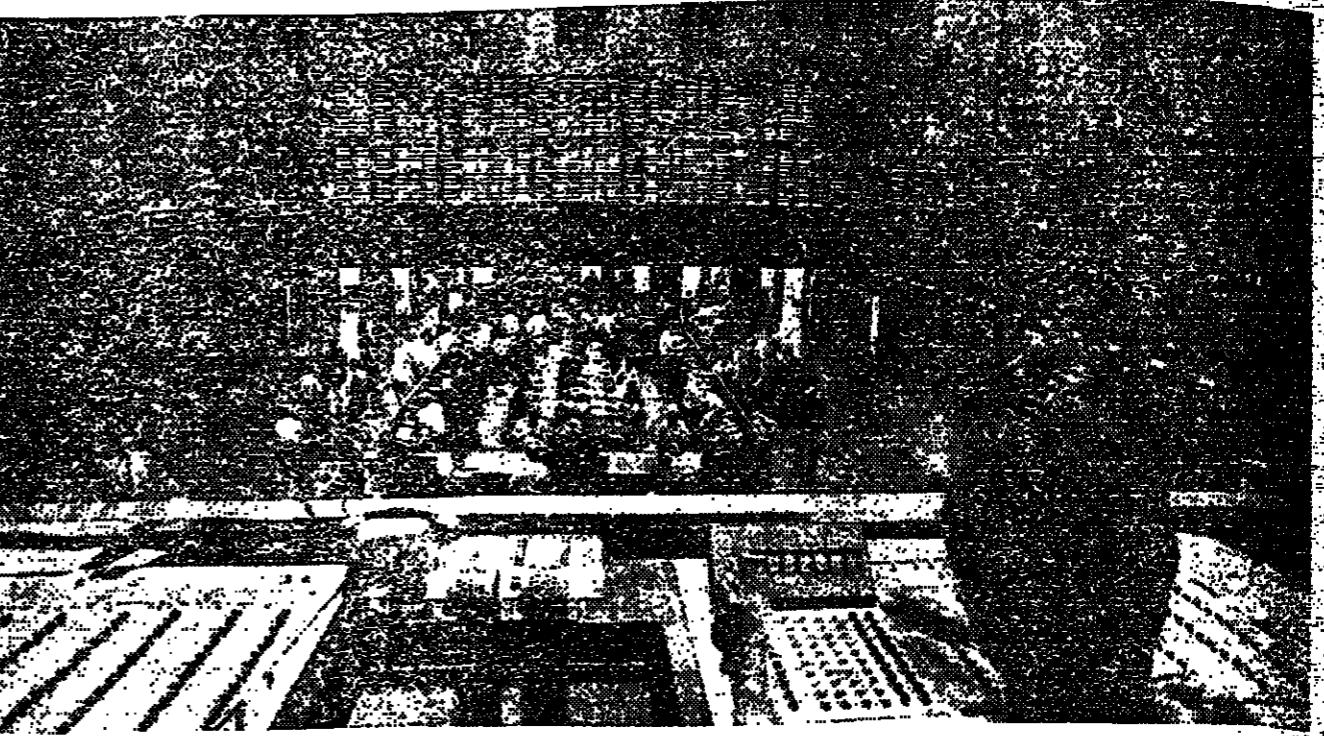
The creation of a new company, Ruhrostal, from the steel-making subsidiary of the Krupp group and the Hoesch concern of Dortmund will also lead to the break up of the Dutch-West German Estel group, continental Europe's last transnational company.

In the long run, the most promising growth areas are the aerospace industry and containers and packaging. Aluminium cans swept through the American soft drink market during the 1970s, and there is still hope for substantial growth in this sector in Europe.

But the short and medium term prospects will make any potential purchasers of Invergordon drive an extremely hard bargain with the Government.

Electricity prices may need to be fixed below 1p per unit if the plant is to break even. British Aluminium had been paying as much as 1.7p per unit on its long term contract.

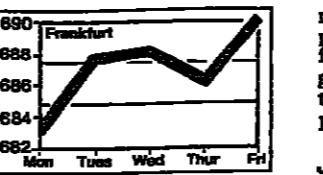
Clive Cookson



Frankfurt Stock Exchange: long shadow cast by American monetary policy

MARKETS ROUND-UP

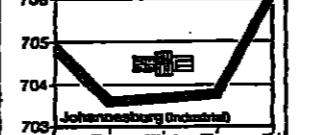
Cautious rise in W German share prices



mas, has given way to a clear preference for shares, with foreign investors hoping for gains from an appreciation of the mark and an increase in price.

JOHANNESBURG

Coal review



West German share prices had nudged higher last week with investors torn between fearing away from the market for fear of increases in American interest rate and making money out of pressure from the federal government in Bonn and the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia, which have been refusing to aid the Ruhr steel industry until it produces clear evidence that it is prepared to help itself.

If all goes according to plan, Ruhrostal will be incorporated some time later this year. The final shape of the Company is still unclear. The Bonn Government, which has been impatiently watching the merger discussions from the sidelines, has still to be presented with the corporate strategy that it says is necessary to determine the state aid that the new company will be given.

On the basis of past performance figures, Ruhral could produce more than 11 million tonnes of steel a year, could perhaps count on sales of DM 14,000m (£3,200m) and would employ more than 80,000 people. But, as the logic of the merger is to rationalise production and return the companies to profitability, big changes are expected in the structure, capacities and employment levels of the new concern.

Hoesch's existing crude steel-making capacity in Dortmund includes obsolete and uneconomic Siemens-Martin equipment. However, Hoesch is strong in sheet steel production, while Krupp has invested heavily over the past decade in building up its quality and special steel output.

The merger of the two concerns is made more difficult in that a divorce has to be arranged between Hoesch and Hoogovens of Holland, its existing partner in the Estel group.

Peter Norman

The long shadow cast by American monetary policy meant that the half point cut in special Lombard rate 10 days ago and last week's record surplus on the West German current account in December failed to translate into a sustained upwards movement. But the Commerzbank index finished the week at a new high of 690.4 for the year to show a useful gain over the low of 666.4 recorded at the turn of the year but well below the 1981/2 peak of 749.

Foreign investors and German investment funds emerged as selective buyers of high quality shares in motors, engineering and electronics. Daimler was strong on hopes of a better year for the motor industry in 1982 while Siemens held steady, reflecting a growing belief that the share is cheap at around 211 despite a 15 per cent drop in net profit last year.

Concerns that United States interest rates might move higher had a negative impact on the Bond market where prices moved narrowly over the week.

For the moment, the formula of "bonds first then shares" which was on the lips of practically every investment adviser at Christ-

mas, has given way to a clear preference for shares, with foreign investors hoping for gains from an appreciation of the mark and an increase in price.

Both Sentrurst and UC Investments, also due to report, have fairly large gold holdings although UC Investments has to some extent diversified out of gold and gone heavily into Impala Platinum, which some market sources consider to be just as bad.

Hughes Steel and Vanadium, which is in the Anglo American group, has proved to be a good growth stock over the years although it is being adversely affected by the overseas recession.

Local demand for steel, however, remains high.

Interest is expected to remain high in the stores sector, where Greatermans, quoted in London, and John Orr have registered some quite wide price movements over the past week. Greatermans reported poor first half results at the beginning of last week and dropped 150 cents. On Friday it put up 200 cents in heavy trading.

A reassessment of coal share stocks is likely on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange this week after an announcement that the pithead price is to go up by 15 per cent from today.

Recently, the coal board has been depressed because of reports of over-production, stockpiling and fears that the European recession would hit exports.

Domestic consumers have now been warned to stockpile themselves ahead of the winter.

One share that should prove interesting ahead of results this week is Kahn in the Gencor (formerly General Mining and Union Corporation) group. Although it is listed in the agricultural sector, it has a big interest in Gencor's coal prospects.

A number of interesting reports are due this week but the market is most anxiously awaiting De Beers while still digesting Central Selling Organisation results. Although the market feels that the results are bound to be disappointing, the shares are still holding firm.

GFSA's interim is due and the market expects this will

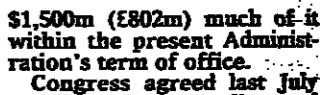
One of the companies to watch is Associated Paper Mills, the paper-making giant which is at the top of those expected to announce half yearly profits this week. The group increased its 1980-81 earnings 40 per cent.

Sir William Vines chairman said at November's annual

investors' meeting that the year was uncertain and that earnings were down in the first four months of the current year. But this week's announcement is nevertheless expected to be encouraging.

Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie (Australia) Limited, despite falling gold prices increased profit slightly from A\$7.04m to A\$7.25m in the year to June and are looking strong.

TOKYO Support fades



Tokyo's strong run showed signs of abating last week with many analysts surprised at its failure to respond to the latest wave of support on Wall Street.

Investors appeared preoccupied with the yen's weakness against the dollar and Japan's continuing trade war with the West. Many blue chip stocks came under strong selling pressure after a firm start to the week, with interest diverted to second liners.

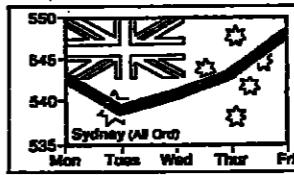
Nevertheless, the latest bout of selling will probably be short lived as the influx of foreign investors keen on buying many underperforming leading industrial stocks.

Overseas investors own about 6 per cent of the Japanese market, a rise of 2.2 per cent during 1981. The figure is expected to grow substantially during 1982.

This should encourage many of Japan's domestic institutions.

AUSTRALIA

One to watch



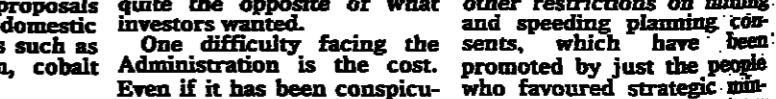
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COMMODITIES

Mixed blessings for boom prophets

Commodity trading, like other financial divisions, is subject to spasmodic enthusiasm, and none has been greeted with as much excitement in recent years as so-called strategic materials.

But at last, after being bombarded with a great deal of questionable advice, President Reagan's Administration is said to be on the verge of important policy decisions about strategic metals.

Immediately one should enter a caveat. If the stories leaking from Washington are even partially true, the Administration's policy will be a mixed blessing for prophets of the "super metals boom". The Government is putting what it sees as national interest ahead of

private profit, so the combination of the two devoutly wished by strategic metal enthusiasts may not occur.

It appears that the Administration will announce in the next few months a two-fold approach: Congress will be asked to approve bigger stockpiles of materials judged necessary to the security of the nation; and at the same time legislators will pressurised to raise domestic production of metals such as chromium, platinum, cobalt and titanium.

The first is good news for those with an interest in strategies; the second may be rather bad news. Investors, more properly called speculators, in these materials have been urging the Ameri-

can Government for several years to accumulate stockpiles, thereby hoping to generate high prices from

which hitherto this diverse category of commodities has generally refused to generate.

But if the intention is to build up stockpiles from domestic mining, surely sensible if possible, the impact on prices could be quite the opposite of what investors wanted.

One difficulty facing the Administration is the cost.

Even if it has been conspicuously unsuccessful to date, President Reagan's policy is to cut government spending. But according to Washington sources, a programme for stockpiling strategic metals could cost as much as

\$1,500m (£802m) much of it within the present Administration's term of office.

Congress agreed last July to allow the expenditure of \$500m on purchase of strategic minerals during the year to the end of this September.

The irony is that the Government is taking up some of the proposals for relaxing environmental and other restrictions on mining and speeding planning consent, which have been promoted by just the people who favoured strategic stockpiles.

A metals boom could still happen, but on the present showing it will owe little to lobbying in Washington.

Michael Prest

They want Mr Volcker to resign but in the meantime they have certainly damned him with faint praise. Mr Regan said after testimony to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress last week in which he strongly attacked the Fed's policies and practices, that he was not aiming to bring him down.

"He is trying," he said. "The man is trying."

When the Fed changed tack on the funds rate last Monday, it shot up to over 14 per cent and has averaged 13.98 per cent for the week compared with 12.36 per cent the previous week. This rise was an indication that the Fed was ceasing to push out excess reserves.

Other rates rose in sympathy with the funds rate. Three-month Treasury bills rose to 12.99 per cent last week from 12.36 per cent the previous week. Certificates of deposit went up from 13.50 per cent to 14.18 per cent.

These initial adjustments are not unusual after the abandonment by the Federal Reserve of an unrealistic interest rate target. If the Fed continues this newly-relaxed attitude to the funds rate there is the prospect of some moderation in money growth.

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

Welcome aboard Inter-City People, now standing in column one. Today and each Monday from now, this new column will call at people and places which for the moment you can't be sure of getting a train to, to see for yourself...

INTER-CITY PEOPLE

CUMBRIA

Survival of the fittest

When Nick Steven left the Army as a captain in the Royal Signals two and a half years ago he used his gratuity to set up Survival Aids, a manufacturer and supplier of survival equipment and rations at Moreland, near Penrith.

Steven says that Survival Aids has survived the last two months of snow, rail strikes and business collapse without recourse to any of the emergency lighting, heating or eating in the Aids catalogue.

He was snowed in and without power in his home three miles away up on Shap Fell and had to walk to work. Luckily, the power stayed on at the Aids plant (there were 42 degrees of frost outside), most of the workers live in Moreland itself, and most goods are sent by road rather than rail.

"My own biggest survival aid", he told me "is a first class computerized accounts and management information system."

Half of the mail order survival kits go to British soldiers who, Steven says, have to buy their own, because survival aids may only be issued to special units.

SWINDON

Kerb-side manner



Dr Jeffrey Cullis

Jeffrey Cullis is giving a new meaning to the phrase "share surgery" with a new project called Endeavour Industries.

Dr Cullis, a Swindon general practitioner, is extending his practice to include the treatment of slumped out BL Minis to provide training and jobs for the disabled.

"I looked around for ideas which would involve raw materials that were not in demand, and which could result in a finished product for sale. I saw heaps of old cars lying around, and thought why not try the recycling business?"

Endeavour Industries will provide work for four disabled people at first, supervised by three instructors. Premises have been offered locally, start-up cash is being raised by a trust fund and people are already offering Minis which have failed the MOT.

Potholing is something associated neither with Hampshire or Herefordshire. However, John Campbell, who recently retired as consul-general in Italy and settled in Leominster, is running a business of his own, Potholes Company (Hereford). He is licensing the name from Tony Bayles' Alton, Hampshire firm of Potholes International. This sells to licensees a quick-hardening substance called Potholing for repairing roads, car-parks and concrete floors.

BIRMINGHAM

Light fantastic

Rachel Waterhouse, who succeeds Christopher Zealley as chairman of the Consumers' Association, says she only joined the consumer movement because "terrible things always seemed to happen to me."

Mrs Waterhouse's present Christmas from husband John, a director of a cancer research unit at Birmingham University, was a light meter.

When pointed at a dazzling snow drift, the meter suggested that the correct exposure with high-speed film would be about an hour. "They replaced it pretty promptly," says the Consumers' Association chairperson.

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Otto Norland, chairman of Alcos of Great Britain, has been elected president of the Aluminium Federation for 1982. Mr Norland has served on the Federation's Council and International Relations Committee since 1979, and was vice-president in 1981. The vice-president of the Aluminium Federation for 1982 will be Mr Gerald Howell, managing director of NDA Forgings.

Mr Alan F. Wilkinson has been appointed as managing director of G & M Power Plant.

Mr John Miller, chairman and managing director of UBM Merchants has been appointed a non-executive director of A. J. Gooding Group.

For the first time, Britain's clearing banks are being forced to fight for their profits.

In the Fifties and Sixties, they faced little competition and were content to expand by opening new branches. The last decade saw the start of competition from the building societies for deposits. But the banks were still able to raise profits from the Barber boom of 1971-73 and thereafter from the endowment effect of unprecedentedly high interest rates.

Now there are serious challenges to the banks' pre-eminence from the foreign banks in London, the building societies (although bankers are fighting back), National Savings and National Giro. Major restructuring of the United Kingdom banking scene now looks out of the question with the Monopolies Commission's report on the rival bids for Royal Bank of Scotland considered by many bankers to be an historical landmark.

The Governor has won a comprehensive victory. The Monopolies Commission's veto of the bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland means the clearers are safe from foreign predators. The senior banker last week, reflecting on the Great Battle of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at which Mr Gordon Richardson defeated the Whitehall free traders.

But others are less sanguine. Foreign bankers have spent the last two weeks searching the Monopolies Commission report with a fine toothcomb to see if it is still possible to buy a British bank. At Citibank, for example, the view is that while a bid for Lloyds, the smallest of the Big Four clearing banks, is probably ruled out, the acquisition of perhaps a finance house remains possible.

On the assumption that the four London clearing banks will retain their independence and that there will be some tidying up of share stakes among the smaller brethren like Grindlays, how is the pattern of British banking likely to develop over the next five years or so?

First, the growing challenge of the 400 foreign banks in London must be met and rolled back. As the table shows over a fifth of all lending to manufacturing industry derives from principally American banks who have led the way in providing medium and long-term finance. British banks are not being forced to follow suit and also to lend on the basis of assets as opposed to a company's cash flow. Traditions are being whittled away.

Second, the battle between the banks and the building societies will intensify on two fronts. Over the past 18 months, the clearing banks have grabbed a 15 per cent share of the house mortgage market and are making particular inroads at the upper-price brackets. Despite the recent note of caution sounded by the Bank of England, the clearers are heading the Government's wish to extend competition on the provision of finance for house purchase. Bankers

are now pressing the Treasury for more net tax relief on mortgages.

Additionally, the banks are mounting a campaign to win more depositors from the building societies, which account for 38 per cent of all deposits within financial institutions. There will be more savings schemes, extensively advertised.

Third, all the clearers now have their consumer credit subsidiaries in place following Lloyds' topping up its interest in London and Scotland to 60.7 per cent in March last year. Consumer finance provides cream when more traditional banking profits are on a downswing, but there is intense competition from the Americans. Citibank employs 2,300 in Britain and has 41 branches attempting

to attract not only loan business but savers' deposits.

Fourth, while it is fair to assume the major expansion in America is now over, there are still opportunities to buy small or medium-sized banks in Europe, particularly in West Germany, Holland and Switzerland. More branches will be opened in key international centres with export finance probably the most lucrative growth area.

However, while the London-based banks face these challenges together, the fifth British clearer, the Royal Bank of Scotland, is presented with special problems following the blocking of the proposed merger with Standard Chartered. The RBS board is now studying its contingency plans and it is

thought it has broadly five possible options.

RBS might look to a medium-sized bank in America in its desire for an international presence. An agreed bid at the right price for a bank say in Texas, would reduce dependence on an over-banked home-base and build up a solid dollar deposit base. Corporate finance facilities for Texans who want to invest in the North Sea would be an added bonus.

A merger with Grindlays Bank is the subject of much speculation. Grindlays is a smaller version of Standard Chartered, although the sale of the Dao Heng bank in Hongkong for £70m earlier this month, makes it less attractive to a bidder, except, ironically to Standard Char-

tered.

So cynical an attitude to industrial relations is not necessarily typical in Zimbabwe, or even as effective as the mine boss would imply. Nevertheless it does point to political overtones in the aspirations of the growing body of trade unionists here.

In the past four months there have been three serious labour stoppages, involving teachers, nurses and railway workers. All three have been seen as challenges to the authorities stemming from dissatisfaction with wage increases and have led to government intervention and the arrest of strikers under emergency legislation designed to curb political activity.

But quite apart from frustration over wages, the strikes reflect a widespread confusion in the labour movement. For almost two years after independence, trade unions are still bound by legislation drafted during UDI while at the same time speaking with the fragmented voice that characterizes their history.

Prior to independence the labour movement reflected nothing so vividly as the political divisions and turmoil within the country. Union umbrella organizations centred on the old splinter at times of political upheaval, as in 1976 when the National African Trade Union Council broke up into factions supporting three rival nationalist politicians. Mr Joshua Nkomo, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndadambani Sithole.

The fact that organized labour had long been a vehicle for covert political activity — leaders such as Mr Nkomo, the Rev Sithole,

and Mr Joshua Nkomo, a

man of the old school

who ran Mr Mugabe to

within a vote for the job last

year, is thought unlikely to

get the job because he is

Bulawayo-based and is asso-

ciated with the opposition

Patriotic Front party.

Following recommendations by the Riddell Commission of Inquiry and a Commonwealth seminar, the ZCTU adopted a course of bringing about mergers of unions working in related fields — the object being to establish one union for

agricultural workers, one for

miners, and so on — which it

was proposed would streamline the number of ZCTU affiliated unions to 17.

The call for mergers was

not unreservedly welcomed by the established unions, which envisaged being absorbed by bodies which

might have a partisan

interest, although the pro-

fusion of unions was clearly

causing confusion.

Last September Mr

Kumbirai Kangai, the Minister of Labour, warned that unions had a year to agree terms for a merger. At the end of that time those opposed to unification would be deregistered.

Delicate talks were going

on in a number of sector

unions when the confusion

was compounded by the

death of Mr Albert Mugabe,

whose body was found in a

swimming pool on December 2.

He had been leading the

merger negotiations and had

been closely involved in

discussions on another im-

portant issue, pending labour

legislation. Although elected

to his position by a narrow

majority at the inaugural

congress, Mr Mugabe had

become the distinctive voice

of the movement and with no

clear successor in sight there

was concern that neither

side would receive due

attention until a new leader

was established in the post.

More than a month after

Mr Mugabe's death the ZCTU

is still without a secretary-

general and there are ques-

tions over the delay in

succession. Possible con-

cerns include Mr Alfred

Makwirima, the ZCTU presi-

dent who has been acting as

spokesman, and Mr

Webster Gwekwerere, a

leader of the new mining

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Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan. 25. Dealings End Feb 12. § Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days
↳ indicated by the number of shares in Issue for the stock quoted)

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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Rugby Union

Sutton's cap may mean end of road for Wheel

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The England captain, Bill Beaumont, will be seeing a leading neurological specialist this morning after the injury he suffered in the county final at Cardiff next Saturday, the selectors have restored Clive Burgess and Rhodri Lewis at flank forward, brought in a new cap, Steve Sutton (PontyPOOL) for Glyn Wheel at lock and, less predictably, brought back the British lion, Ray Gravell in the centre at the expense of Pat Daniels.

Frailties in the Welsh defence around the fringes in Dublin made it probable that Gareth Williams and Mark Davies were candidates for the axe. Burgess (Ebbw Vale), who was chosen to play against Australia but withdrew with influenza, played a key role in the championship of 1977 between Ireland and France for the last two internationals. In 1981, Lewis won four caps in last season's series.

Burgess is a hard man at close quarters; Lewis has pace and aggression. The changes should ensure a greater commitment of security close to the scrum-half.

The choice of Sutton, aged 23 and 6ft 5in tall, may improve the Welsh lineout; he began playing rugby three years ago and has won four Wales caps. This could mark the end of the international road for Wheel, who has 32 caps. Wheel broke his nose playing for Swansea on Saturday but he has been told he may already have made up their minds to look for his successor. Their front row remains unchanged which means that Graham Price, soldier onwards to his 36th consecutive cap.

After the defeat in Dublin there seemed a fair case for leaving the Welsh back division intact. However, David Williams, the centre, who had a dazzling game against Australia, has been dropped and Gravell will win his 21st cap. Gravell played for the Lions in 1974, four internationals to South Africa in 1980 and in the past two seasons has been chosen only for half of the Welsh championship matches.

Wales' new captain, Glyn Williams (PontyPOOL), C. Jones (Llanelli), J. Davies (Cardiff), P. Horgan (Llanelli), I. Davies (Llanelli), G. Price (PontyPOOL), S. Burgess (Ebbw Vale), R. Lewis (Cardiff), C. Daniels (Llanelli), G. Davies (Cardiff), G. Williams (Llanelli), M. Daniels (Llanelli), R. Daniels (Llanelli), G. Williams (Llanelli), W. Jones (Aberavon), G. Williams (Llanelli).

Referee: R. Daniels (Llanelli).

Beaumont must wait for specialist's report

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The England captain, Bill Beaumont, will be seeing a leading neurological specialist this morning after the injury he suffered in the county final at Cardiff next Saturday, the selectors have restored Clive Burgess and Rhodri Lewis at flank forward, brought in a new cap, Steve Sutton (PontyPOOL) for Glyn Wheel at lock and, less predictably, brought back the British lion, Ray Gravell in the centre at the expense of Pat Daniels.

Frailties in the Welsh defence around the fringes in Dublin made it probable that Gareth Williams and Mark Davies were candidates for the axe. Burgess (Ebbw Vale), who was chosen to play against Australia but withdrew with influenza, played a key role in the championship of 1977 between Ireland and France for the last two internationals. In 1981, Lewis won four caps in last season's series.

Burgess is a hard man at close quarters; Lewis has pace and aggression. The changes should ensure a greater commitment of security close to the scrum-half.

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Whistling out of tune

By David Hands
Leicester 22

The Leicester coach, "Charlie" White, was invited by the Rugby Union to address a whistling (if that is the right collective noun) of referees on the eve of the Anglo-Saxon game and the referee's "ref" at Twickenham yesterday. White, a man of firm, not to say stringent, views, and the modern referee's "ref" and his address, to 40 England's leading officials, may have had added piquancy in view of the recent row over the referee's "ref" at the game at Old Deer Park on Saturday.

Leicester won, by a goal, a try and four penalty goals to a try and a penalty, but it was a game which, like the one before it, the same and the modern referee's "ref" and his address, to 40 England's leading officials, may have had added piquancy in view of the recent row over the referee's "ref" at the game at Old Deer Park on Saturday.

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Despite the close attention of Perkins and Sutton, the Swansea jumpers, Moriarty, Wheel and Charnier, could not be replaced by Clegg, who came home when Wyatt kicked a long penalty they might have felt satisfied.

But in the space of three minutes before the interval Peter Davies retrieved some of the deficit by scoring a penalty from critical errors by Swansea's back row. First Davies was caught offside and then Ruddock was pulled down when Wyatt kicked a long penalty they might have felt satisfied.

It was Charnier who set up the best move of the match, after Davies had opened the scoring with a try. Eddie Williams and Ruddock continued in setting up a man from Dacey and Donoghue handled before missing our Ref for Wyatt to come into the line to score. Swansea found points in the corner but when Wyatt kicked a long penalty they might have felt satisfied.

In the first half of the game, with Swan- ses' defensive strategy to escape the encroaching try by running the ball from all corners, it was inevitable that Pontypool should score a final pushover try by Butler which Lewis again converted.

Wyatt, though Wyatt kicked another penalty early in the second half, it was Pontypool's solid pack who gained the upper hand in a game which was now being played to a deadlocked situation. Sixty minutes later even a sniff of the ball, Cannon and Powell, going downwind, kept the ball in front of the forwards.

When Powell found himself short of time to kick he ran back to join the safety of his pack, only for a charitable backhand from a man from which Dacey and Donoghue handled before missing our Ref for Wyatt to come into the line to score. Swansea found points in the corner but when Wyatt kicked a long penalty they might have felt satisfied.

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Cricket

Kanpur can pour like Manchester

From Richard Streeton
Kanpur, Jan 31

One hour's play was possible in the sixth Test match here today because of drizzling rain, the first England players have seen since they left London on November 5. It brought a matadoring hold-up for England who were aiming at quick runs to consolidate an encouraging start they had made. Despite the stoppage India proved the day's main item with the announcement that Gavaskar will be captain on the tour to England this summer.

There was of course, no other candidate provided Gavaskar was available and willing to take on the captaincy responsibility. He declined the offer in January when India came to England last in 1979 and Vengsarkar was appointed. Gavaskar was not convinced at the time that the job could be combined satisfactorily with his responsibilities as the team's manager. Now he has become more used to the twin roles even if at times in Australia and New Zealand in 1980-81 his own form gave his critics the chance to wonder if he should be given the extra burden.

Again England in the past three months Gavaskar's tactical thinking has improved visibly in match by match by his players and in the one-day series. He has the wholehearted support of his players and has instilled a belief in their own ability, two factors that have not always been present in Indian captains in the past.

Thomson fires back as his comrades fall

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Adelaide, Jan 31

Adversity has brought the best out of Australia in the third Test match here today, specially fit Thomson. Down to eight fit men, mostly bowlers, when they took six West Indian wickets for 204 runs after being bowled out themselves for 238. Fired by his own and the crowd's enthusiasm and by Australia's plight, Thomson bowled at a fine speed and with great spirit.

Hughes had a broken toe, Chappell a badly bruised left hand and Lillee a strained groin. The first two were unable to field and will bat in Australia's second innings only with difficulty. After bowling four inaccurate overs this morning Lillee limped off, not to reappear. Although it was a Yorker from Holding which hit his toe, Hughes, the West Indies, for most of Australia's innings, bowled shamelessly short.

The pitch, hard and bouncy, encouraged them to do so and the umpires, as umpires do the world over, acted as though there was nothing in the laws to stop it. Marsh was another victim of a short ball, hit on the cheek yesterday evening as he tried to hook. Holding returned soon afterwards with double vision. March was back today captaining the side in Chappell's absence and in his own eighteenth Test match, a new Australian record.

In making a painful 61 Chappell showed much courage. Border, too, had to be dug out, as he usually is. Wood and Hughes were out to shooe that the moment they had just about enough of the short fast bowling. Lillee (when he had not been hit) had been down to the sort of one-day stroke he has been playing for the last three weeks. Richards, too, slashed at everything as though no one had told him he was back playing Test cricket again.

And tonight after many fluctuations it is, albeit only on paper,

Gavaskar has been fortunate in having a varied attack with which to juggle and has done so cleverly. He is a finicky captain, often moving fieldsmen after every ball, though sometimes this has been a time wasting game. He may occasionally infuriate English crowds both for this trait and with his own batting but there is no question that under his leadership India will be that much harder to beat.

Fletcher considers Gavaskar the "toughest" Indian captain he's seen. On paper he is India's most experienced player. Under him India have beaten West Indies, Australia and Pakistan at home in the past three years. Abroad, they have drawn with England and lost to New Zealand. It will be Gavaskar's fourth visit to England with an official Indian party. The rest of the party will be announced in Bombay on March 29.

Gavaskar himself thinks the 1971 side which Wadekar led was the strongest team India has produced in recent years — especially in the bowling department — but believes India should be the best and that their utility strength will make them hard to beat.

Like Fletcher Gavaskar believes that over rates should be set aside for the legislators to deal with and the umpires should be spared any responsibility in the matter. In this he will have everyone's support, perhaps, even if his suggested mandatory figure of 15 overs an hour being stipulated is lower than most people would feel was warranted.

Meanwhile this particular Test match is the third played in this industrial city since 1978-79 at this time of the year to be disrupted by rain.

Despite the enduring place Cawnpore, as it used to be spelt, holds in English history books, it is short of cricket traditions. On neither day in this game so far has the 45,000 capacity ground been filled. Breakfast time reading is provided by *The Pioneer*, a daily published in nearby Lucknow. This reflects the lack of interest in the dull, indecipherable cricket played elsewhere earlier in the series, an interesting endorsement of what I write on Friday.

England scored 213 for three on 60 overs on Saturday, while

despite a loss of 45 minutes for bad light at the end, was the highest first day score in this series. It was as dark and murky as Manchester is June as the suns practised before the start and began to rise as play should have started. A start as possible after an hour's wait and England progressed to 249 for four before it resumed raining in the dark over before lunch. It proved to be a waste of time.

England's first four overs were spudly inspections between the drizzle and the final abandonment. Doshi and Shastri, India's two leg-spinners, shared the ball. Both had decent fields and runs mostly came with singles. When Kapil Dev bowled Botham struck him for one

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Despite the enduring place Cawnpore, as it used to be spelt, holds in English history books, it is short of cricket traditions. On neither day in this game so far has the 45,000 capacity ground been filled. Breakfast time reading is provided by *The Pioneer*, a daily published in nearby Lucknow. This reflects the lack of interest in the dull, indecipherable cricket played elsewhere earlier in the series, an interesting endorsement of what I write on Friday.

England scored 213 for three on 60 overs on Saturday, while

despite a loss of 45 minutes for bad light at the end, was the highest first day score in this series. It was as dark and murky as Manchester is June as the suns practised before the start and began to rise as play should have started. A start as possible after an hour's wait and England progressed to 249 for four before it resumed raining in the dark over before lunch. It proved to be a waste of time.

England's first four overs were spudly inspections between the drizzle and the final abandonment. Doshi and Shastri, India's two leg-spinners, shared the ball. Both had decent fields and runs mostly came with singles. When Kapil Dev bowled Botham struck him for one

overs.

Gavaskar himself thinks the 1971 side which Wadekar led was the strongest team India has produced in recent years — especially in the bowling department — but believes India should be the best and that their utility strength will make them hard to beat.

Like Fletcher Gavaskar believes that over rates should be set aside for the legislators to deal with and the umpires should be spared any responsibility in the matter. In this he will have everyone's support, perhaps, even if his suggested mandatory figure of 15 overs an hour being stipulated is lower than most people would feel was warranted.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

9.08 For Schools, Colleges: Behind the scenes of a department store. 9.33 A trainee in management. 10.00 You and Me. For the very young (not Schools). 10.15 Music Time. 10.30 Modern History: Britain Alone. 11.00 Travelling by horse and motor. 11.23 Talkabout. 11.42 The rehearsal of the play, *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell. 12.07 Closedown. 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial Report and news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Peter Purves and a camping holiday in Snowdonia. 1.45 Camberwick Green. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r). 2.01 For Schools, Colleges: Words and Pictures. 2.18 From the Caribbean. 2.40 Designing Structures. 3.00 Della Smith's Cookery Course. Rice (r). 3.25 See Hear A magazine programme for the hearing impaired (r). 3.53 Regional news (not London).

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC2). 4.20 Cartoon: Secret Squirrel in Wolf in Sheep Clothing. 4.25 Jacksberry. Tony Attken reads part one of the Eggbow Brontosaurus. 4.40 Playhouse: The Toy Princess starring Geoffrey Palmer. 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. 5.10 Blue Peter. 5.40 News with Richard Baker. 6.00 South East at Six. 6.25 Nationwide. 6.55 Doctor Who. Peter Davison in part one of Kinda. 7.20 The Rockford Files. The doleful detective is asked to prove that a death was not suicide (r). 8.10 Panorama: Unfinished Business. Philip Tibbenham reports on Israel's gun running to Iran.

BBC 2

10.10 Managing the Micro (r) 10.35 Speak for Yourself. Getting on with neighbours 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Sarah Long and Don Stoen. The Story is Mrs Wobbie the Wallaby by Alan Ahberg 11.25 Play it Safe! Jimmy Savile with tips on child safety (r). 11.35 Write Away. A guide to diary writing presented by Barry Took (r). 12.00 Closedown. 12.00 A Child's Choice. The children. Part Four: Kindergarten and Play Space (r) 2.25 Maths Help. 2.40 Other People's Lives. Christian worship in Malta. 3.05 The Computer Programme. Exploring the world of information science. 3.30 Business Club. The first of five programmes about running small businesses (r).

3.55 Film: *The Silent Bell* (1944) starring Simone Simon and Jason Roberts. Sri Drama set in the time of the Franco-Prussian war. 5.05 World Ski-ing Championships. 5.40 Laurel and Hardy in *Giving Bye Bye* (1934) 6.05 Magpie. (r) 6.25 Mr Smith's Favourite Garden. Hollow Wall and Table Bed 6.50 News with subtitles 6.55 Rivalries. Trends for 1982 7.30 The Genuine Article: How to spot fake coins 7.55 Porridge. A fellow convict who believes he does not have long to live wants Fletcher to inherit his hidden loot (r) 8.25 Grace Kennedy. The talented singer has Richard Stilgoe as one of her guests

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools: Picture Box. 9.47 Imaginary animals. 10.04 Sending a birthday card. 10.21 Part four of Macbeth. 10.48 Insight: For the hearing impaired. 11.05 Starting science. 11.22 Modern life in an old village. 11.39 The legacy of Fasal. 12.10 Cockleshell Bay. With the Cockle twins for the very young (r). 12.10 Rainbow Learning with Puppets. 12.30 Do It Herself. Advice for the practical lady introduced by Muriel Clark and Anne Brand. 1.00 News. 1.20 Themed news. 1.30 Anitv: *British Holiday*. Anthony Doughboy A nostalgic look back at life in the 1950s. Among the items is a look at the high cost of spectacles. 2.30 Film: *A Private Life* (1954) starring Richard Widmark and Marlene Dietrich. Joe Lawrence, an American army sergeant in occupied Berlin, falls for a girl who is working to send war orphans to a new life in South America. To help her he plans to steal two million dollars in gold.

4.15 Cartoon: Dangermouse 4.20 Graham's Ark. Garden Ponds 4.45 The Book Tower with Stephen Moore 5.15 Mr and Mrs. Quiz programme between three married couples 5.45 News 6.00 Themes news 6.25 Help! Vtaylor Gee with the first of three programmes on alcoholism. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Wish You Were Here . . . ? Chris Kelly visits the Dingle peninsula; Judith Chalmers, Lengueaud; and Ed Stewart continues his drive holiday to Florida. 7.30 Coronation Street. The Rovers' Return gets a space invader machine 8.00 Let There Be Love. The comical courtship of a widow with three children 8.30 World in Action: Private Darkin's Army. An investigation into the bullying of Army recruits

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Week. 6.15 This Week on 4. 6.35 John Edeon with a selection from the BBC Sound Archives. 9.00 News. 9.05 Start The Week with Richard Baker. 10.00 News. 10.20 Money Box. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Morning Story: "The Bum" by W. Somerset Maugham. 11.00 News. 11.15 Down Your Way. 11.20 Poetry Please. 12.00 News. 12.22 You and Yours. 12.37 Legend. Decant. Honed and the World at One: News. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.20 Women's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 London Theatre: "Welcome, These Pleasant Days" by Michael Robson. 4.30 Back in Ten Minutes. A walk through Oxford. 4.45 Theatre: "Martial Rites" by Margaret Forster (r). 5.00 PM: News magazine. 5.15 The Six O'Clock News, Headline Financial Report. 6.30 News at a Minute. A panel game. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 Start The Week with Richard Baker. 8.00 Monday Play: "A Fool for a Cigarette" by Alan McDonald. 9.15 Kaleidoscope. 10.00 The World Tonight: News. 10.20 The World Tonight: News. 11.00 A Stock at Bedtime: "Portrait of the Artist As A Young Man" by James Joyce (11). 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Monday in Parliament. 12.00 Monday Weather Report: Forecast.

1.45 Concert: Händel in King's College Chapel, Cambridge. 2.00 News. 2.15 Schumann: Piano Trio Concerto. 3.45 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra Concert Mozart. 4.00 News. 4.15 BBC Luncheon Concert direct from St John's, Smith Square, London. Piano Quartet recital: Beethoven, Faure, Matthes Musicales. 4.30 Concert: Brahms, Schubert, Williams, Peter Hope, Geoffrey Toye, Bösl. 5.00 Mahler for Pleasure with Michael Berkeley. 5.30 News.

7.05 Morning Concert: Händel, Reviel, Mozart; records. 7.00 News. 8.05 Morning Concert (continued): Alwyn, Lambert, Britten, Arnold; records. 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composers: Tomaso Albinoni and Benedetto Marcello; records. 9.45 Lyricists and Gurney: Song recital. 10.30 Music for Organ: Recital in King's College Chapel, Cambridge. 11.15 Schumann: Piano Trio Concerto. 12.00 News. 12.30 Late Night Concert direct from St John's, Smith Square, London. Piano Quartet recital: Beethoven, Faure, Matthes Musicales. 1.00 News. 1.15 Bohemian Nights: Kozelek; record. 1.30 Frequency Medium Wave with Phil Coulthard. 1.45 Radio 4 Wave except: 7.05-11.15 Cricket.

Radio 1

5.00am As Radio 2. 7.00 Milk Read, 2.00 News. 7.30 David Lee Travis including. 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00 Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 Peter Powell. 7.00 Stavyn Jansen. 10.00 John Paul. 12.00 Midlight, Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Europe on medium wave 849 kHz (462m) at the following times GMT: 9.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.20 Technical Programmes. 7.30 Short Story. 7.45 Short Story. 8.00 World News. 8.05 Reflections. 8.15 The London Bach Ensemble. 8.30 Good Books. 8.45 World News from An Observer. 9.20 Good Books. 9.35 Interlude. 9.40 Lock Ahead. 9.45 A Word in English. 10.00 News from Britain. 11.15 News from Britain. 11.30 Pageant of the Earth. 12.00 Weather. 12.15 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 12.45 Sports Round. 1.00 World News. 1.20 Twenty Minutes. 1.30 Short Story. 1.45 Money Style. 1.45 Is Steel Still Beautiful? 2.15 The End of the Affair. 2.30 Rock. 2.45 News. 2.50 Folk on 2 featuring Gary & Vera Aspin. 2.55 Kitey Will. 3.00 London Lyttleton with the Best of Jazz. 3.10 Monday Movie Quiz with Ray Moore. 3.30 News. 3.45 The Day. 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Schmidt derides reports of health trouble

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Jan 31

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, laughed and chattered far into the night at the Hamburg press ball last night while the country was buzzing with reports that he had collapsed, and warnings that he might resign.

"They're talking nonsense", he reported when asked about press reports that he had been taken ill at the Lower Saxon Social Democrats Party Congress in Hanover on Saturday.

The Chancellor, who had a pace-maker inserted in October after recurrent heart trouble, suddenly walked out of the congress shortly after making a 90-minute speech, his face bright red and covered with beads of sweat.

After a 15-minute rest and a drink of water he returned, apparently recovered. The Government press office said later that he had been suffering from cramp—they would not say where—but which had gone away of its own accord.

Given the Chancellor's, and therefore his spokesman's, tendency to conceal or play down any signs of ill health, journalists now take such remarks with a pinch of salt. But the Chancellor, who has appeared fitter than at any time since his operation, proceeded to allay fears by exposing himself at the annual press ball in his native city.

He did not dance, but talked animatedly for several hours to foreign and German guests. Meanwhile, the Chancellor and his staff were attempting

to soften his threat, reported by a close colleague on Friday, that he would resign if the Social Democrat-Free Democrat coalition parties failed to agree to a plan to finance an urgently needed unemployment scheme. Herr Schmidt is insisting on a solution in time for the cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

The Chancellor made it clear at the local party congress in Hanover that he was not yearning to step down before the current legislature ends in 1984, but that disagreements and dissent could make his job impossible.

"I don't want to leave the ship", he said, "but one cannot go on indefinitely steering a ship with 27 or 30 would-be helmsmen."

His threat—or warning, as his staff prefer to call it—was clearly not as serious and irrevocable as his insistence that he will go if the SPD withdraws its support from Nato's deploy-and-negotiate missile decision, which is a fundamental pillar of his security policy.

The situation, with leaders of the two parties still completely at odds about where the money for the scheme is to come from, is being treated extremely seriously here. Herr Herbert Wehner, the SPD Bundestag floor leader, predicted that if a solution were found, the coalition would break up in the next few weeks.

Frantic behind-the-scenes contacts were going on this weekend.

Dying girl's screams were heard for 25 minutes

A girl aged 17 was found dead near a large block of London flats after residents heard screams for help for about twenty-five minutes.

Mr Robert Wareham, who lives in the flats in De Beauvoir Road, Islington, north London, said: "After 15 to 20 minutes the screaming got louder and help was called for a couple of times. Then it just stopped. It could well be right," he said, although her body was not discovered until the next morning.

Asked if he found it amazing that people could have heard screams and not called the police, Mr Lacey said: "As a policeman, yes. But as a person, this is a fact of life that we have to live with all the time... people will not call us often enough."

Last night, a youth aged 16 was charged with murdering Sharon Locke, 17, who lived in the Islington area. Detective Superintendent Alan Lacey said: "She put up one hell of a

battle, possibly for a considerable time." Reports that her screams were heard for 25 minutes late on Friday night "could well be right" he said, although her body was not discovered until the next morning.

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